Martin L. Stimson

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Rev. M. S. Stimson
1073 Hancock St
Brooklyn N.Y.

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Jan. 15 1890.

Rev. J. Smith D.D.
Sec. Am. Board.
Boston

Rec'd Jan. 16

Dear Sir

I have just received a letter from Rev. F. M. Price dated Nov. 12th at Taiku where he was waiting and had been for 3 weeks for his brother and Mr. Davis. He expressed impatience at their tardiness and it seems to me odd that they had not arrived at so late a date — I hope you have no news of sickness or accident as the cause of the delay.

Mr. Daniells told me the other day ~~that~~ you have been

ill with the fashionable disea
Trust you are better- The
weather here seems favorabl
to the continuance of La Gripp
I think you were mistaken
about the division of the forces
in Shansi,

At Taiku the premises rente
by Mr Price some years ago and
tenanted by Dr Osborne & Athe
were given up after the presen
premises were purchased, So
also the house where I used
to live, The coming of a doctor
made it imperative for
Mr Price either to vacate or
hire another house- As there
is room enough at Fen cho
it was decided that Price
leave Taiku and Dr Goldsbury
occupy his house-
I think the medical work
will eventually be short of
room there-

Both the Prices will live
this year at Fen Chow for
in the house intended for
the expected Mrs Thompson
and the expected physician.
Mr Davis will live in my
house & Thompson with
them-

Mr Thompson wrote me
lately that he was thinking
of spending a good deal of
time at Wen Shui Hsien
70 li North of Fen Chow for
as he had heard that the C.I.M.

were intending to occupy there before long,

My physician thinks that I am slowly but surely improving of my bilious trouble. I have felt better some of the time the last ten days than for months before, but the question will be as to the permanence of recovery.

Mrs Stimson is in Boston I suppose and the rest of our family are with me and well.

With regards to Mrs Smith

I remain yours truly

W L Stimson

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1073 Hancock St. Brooklyn N.Y.
March 6, 1890.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Sec'y Am. Board:
Dear Sir:

The six months for which you advised me to quietly receive the allowance granted for my support are nearly passed. The year which is the limit of time for which such allowances are given is also near its close (May 13.) My physician has this week given his candid opinion with regard to my prospect of continued health.

I would like to come to Boston if you are willing to confer with you about my future movements as several matters of financial consequence to myself are involved.

I have also a very great desire to secure, if possible, an opportunity to address the Prudential Committee for say 30 minutes with regard to the Shansi Mission and Oberlin. I am dissatisfied with the present attitude of the Administration on this subject, and think it will

seem only fair that some one acquainted with the ~~matter~~ Subject from its first inception should have the opportunity to present the Oberlin view and plead that the original plan be maintained by the Board. I know of no one more personally or intelligently interested, now in this country, than myself, and therefore venture to make this request.

Going to Foxboro for the body of a nephew who died there and was buried here on Monday last I made myself known to the young man who is preaching there and spoke for him morning and evening. Was exceedingly weary having been broken of my rest Friday night and was travelling all Sat-night and Sunday night again. But enjoyed the opportunity for speaking and hope some good was accomplished by it even in so actively missionary a church as that.

We are all well as usual.

Very truly yours

M. L. Stimson

Brooklyn, March 6, 1890.

Rec'd March 7.

Brooklyn N.Y. April 3d 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Secy. A.B.C.F.M.

Dear Dr Smith:

Your letter of the 29th ult. is rec'd. We wish to thank the Committee for their generous provision for us, which we value the more as the suggestion of it was entirely unexpected by us and our friends. We expect to pine for Shansi more and more as the days go on. We enlisted for life service so far as our purpose and hope was concerned. To return before our ~~time~~ first period of service had expired was a disappointment to us. Not to return to Shansi will be a very great disappointment, provided the Board shall occupy the field in a successful manner. Our desires and prayers will ever be with our brethren there and every report of spiritual success and conquest there will stir our desires yet more. Yet I felt that my health

made our return a very poor commercial risk for the Board. I tried to state fairly the whole matter and let the decision of the Committee be an indication, if it might, of the Divine Will and providence.

Yesterday I visited my physician Dr. McBurney and he said "I am very glad you are not to return this year. You are not yet in good favor for work." I also ventured to inquire for some indication of probable expense for medical care the last four months and he astonished me by saying that he had never been accustomed to charge ministers anything and knew no reason why he should vary his rule in my case. I shall certainly feel greatly indebted to him for his careful attention to my case and the measure of success attained.

I rec'd today notice that this house had changed owners and that the new proprietor hoped I could vacate by April 30th.

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I rec'd today note that this house had changed owners and that the new proprietor hoped I could vacate by April 30th.

Dr Kincaid had called to see me before I returned home. He is very kind and I think will propose my name to a church who have asked him to nominate a minister for them.

I have abundant reason to be thankful for the kind friends made for me by my past connection with the work of the Board.

Please mention our hearty thanks to the Committee and accept the same for your kindness to us.

Very truly yours
M. L. Stimson,

Mrs Stimson wishes me to send her kind regards to Mrs Smith.

Brooklyn, Apr. 3, 1890.

Rec'd Apr. 7.

Mrs Stimson has been desperately ill and for two days or more, except that she continued to breathe, there seemed to be no hope. She was left by her delirium in the greatest weakness Saturday. Today she was believed to be out of danger. She is doing as well as can be expected. My son is much better and may sit up tomorrow.

That I am almost tired out goes without saying. Perhaps you will do me the kindness to let the Sec'ys of the Board see this, as I can not write many letters for a few days.

Cordially Yours

M. L. Stimson

Brooklyn, April 14, 90.

Rec'd Apr. 15.

Dr. Clark

From Hazen

1030 Jefferson Ave.,(late Vigelius)
Brooklyn, N. Y., May 2d, 1890.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.,
Sec'y A. B' C. F. M.,
Dear Sir;

The misdirected letter not being delivered at my residence as I requested, I went down town and asked for it this morning. Your letter of the 30th ult. came this p. m. I am glad to say that we are safely moved into a flat which I was fortunte to secure only three blocks from the former one. Mrs. Stim- has slowly recovered strength, but is not yet able to do much about house. James returned to school,this week, and our two girls have recovered so that they can come home from my aunts tomorrow. We have special reason for thanksgiving that all is so well with us today.

We were greatly shocked to learn that the Mission is in such deep waters again. Mr. Ward read my recent letter to you. We are ready to go back at the risk of the Board if they wish it and request it before I engage with a church---which I hope will be soon. Mrs. Stimson is not willing that I should offer to go back alone for two years to help through the emergency, and probably that would not seem more practicable to you than to her. I wish I could do something. If I had an official assurance from the Prudential Commit-

M. L. Stimson

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that the requests of [illegible] band of students from Oberlin to be sent to Shansi would be complied with as far as possible, and the Mission frankly recognized as the Oberlin Band Mission, I would go to Oberlin at once (with I think more good ground of confidence in my success than [illegible]) and [illegible]. [illegible] as for I would bear the [illegible] myself. I have been much tempted to go and do the best I can anyway, but feel that the statements of your letter [illegible] to Prof. Foster, so long as they remain uncontradicted, we [illegible] of the Board in this matter make the case of Shansi as hope- [illegible] can be. That frankly is my estimate of the situation, and I exceedingly regret that it is so.

We are very glad that Miss. Hewitt is to be company with Miss. Bird. We shall write to both of them. About their [illegible]

A letter from Mr. Thompson [illegible] with discouragement about the converts at Pen-chen [illegible]. It seems strange that our converts have, some of them, so suddenly become altogether unsatisfactory. We feel greatly disappointed at this.

Sickness and other work have [illegible] of late. That I have come through it so well is a pleasing [illegible] for my own increase in strength the last winter. Cordially yours,

Brooklyn, May 2, 1898
Rec'd May 6

1030 Jefferson Ave. Bk'lyn N.Y.
May 5th 1890–

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Sec'y Am. Board, Boston, Mass.,

My dear Sir:

The subject upon which you ask advice is a perplexing one– The ladies will doubtless be welcomed to board in the families of the Stations where they go, if they desire, Whether they do or not, they will be subject to the native estimate of single women of their ages until their life and work demonstrates the purity of their characters. Much has been done toward this by the long residence of English Ladies in our neighborhood as lately in Hsiao Yi. 10 miles fr F.C.F. and at Tai yuan fu 30 miles from Taiku. If I were advising my own sister I should caution her against every thing that might have to the native eye the appearance of evil– such as receiving men in her

apartments unattended by ladies or whe
her teacher or servants were not presen
in the room - Then about housekeepin
I should say. Do as seems pleasantest
to you - The Mission I am sure would
faithfully meet the preferences of these lad
But I would advise my sister to go with
as light an outfit as possible and orde
what her own judgment decided upon in time
for the next fall arrival of goods. She
would do well to take a hair mattrass &
pillows and a good wire spring bed with or
without the bedstead - a suite of folding chairs
including a rocker, a hammock,

Now we get very nice native furniture in the line of chairs, stools, tables of many shapes, and cupboards, clothespresses, cabinets etc - and I should advise my sister to expect to prefer native furniture and products as far as possible, ~~though~~ so different in style from ours, for the sake of their good opinion. The nearer we get to their tastes in these respects the more they like us. It does not mean living in dirt anymore than to furnish a house here with antiques would mean so. Here I prefer the light and tasteful furniture which we find in ordinary homes, to the heavy and ugly old English furniture, but were my family returning we should take nothing beyond the articles mentioned in the way of ~~chairs~~ wooden furniture. Some things might well be spoken of. One article will suggest a list — say for instance, bed-pan. Some would never regret carrying an iron frame agate wash-stand, water holder, waste pail, etc complete. Some would also carry an agate commode in upholstered frame. It should be remembered that there are probably some articles for housekeeping, I presume a good many, left by returning families, like mine and Price's, which are for sale for what any one offers. At any rate one will not so likely regret living inconveniently a few months at first and using their own judgment about purchases, as they will to go on advice of others & haphaza opinions and afterward regret the possession of many articles which prove inconvenient or useless—

A good organ is a good thing, an several have been taken to our Mission. I have a very nice one there which cost me $160 in Boston which I enjoyed and used profitably in my work. I left it packed up— [illegible] not care to sell it until I knew that I am never going back but would prefer that it was used carefully by a lady who knows how ~~&~~ not to abuse the bellows.

I will write to Mr. Barton at once, with the greatest pleasure—

Chinese table dishes should not be depended upon— I will leave you to make these suggestions to the ladies as Mrs Stinson is too indisposed and too busy to write ~~many~~ letters— She is only slowly regaining her color and strength— Our children are quite well.

Sincerely yours
M. L. Stinson

M. L. Stinson
Brooklyn, Oct 8 '88
Rec'd Nov [illegible]

Your letter was addressed to S. Dakota

HOPE, N. D., Nov. 13, 1890. 373

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,
Sec'y of the Am. Board, Boston Mass.,

My Dear Sir: The letter from Mr. Davis and Resolutions from the Mission were duly received and read with pleasure. I noticed the unusual length of time between the dates and the Post-marks due in someway I suppose to the dreadful floods about Tientsin, of wh. we have seen recent notices. The ~~Resolutions~~ letter reads as though we were personal donors and have some peculiar right as to determining the expenditure though the Resolutions are distint in a right apprehension of the matter.

Of course, whatever shall happen to us, we cannot easily lose our intense personal interest in the religious welfare of the field to which we gave ourselves freely and from which we came away with deep regret. We cannot come to our family altar without a longing thought for good upon the work there, the workers, and the natives we know so well. Our main disappointment about most letters from the Mission is the absence of intelligence about the work, & the many Chinese whom we knew. Thompson however is more satisfactory, though he writes on different letters concerning the same persons according to the mood he is in toward them. I find it difficult to carry on my correspondence as it should be done, but intend by no means to neglect my brethren in Shansi more than I do my father and brothers.

You know I presume that I refused to promise a church in New York more than a years service and that on that account the Society refused to concur in the call the Church had voted me. Here also I am only engaged for one year. If I stay in America longer than next autumn I intend only to engage for one year. I need my library badly but am unwilling to order it home until there is no probability of my going back. My health has so steadily improved the last four months that the question of when we can go begins to be felt as a conscientious one. But we will wait awhile yet. I would not be afraid of my health there now if sure of a plenty of cows milk. I better understand myself and the care I need to take than when I came home.

You inquire about our work here. We are with a poor struggling, straggling church of about 25 members. The community which supports it is generally godless, critical, and indifferent to it. The Gospel is not popular but a dogmatic science (?) is. The church is of more use in the dreariness of winter as an amusement than at any other time. Prayer-meetings are poorly attended, and every device that is at all appropriate has to be studied to make the summer & autumn services attractive. We are trying to do some good and find it as hard a field if not indeed harder than proud self- satisfied China. Truly "whereever there is a chapel to God very near is the Devil's cathedral."

Mrs. Stimson and family are very well.

Very truly yours,

M. L. Stimson

Hope, Nov. 14, 1890.
Rec'd Nov. 17.

I shall be glad to be of any possible service among our Dakota churches — I shall speak (D.V.) in Harwood near Farg Nov. 30 - by exchange and special invitat of the pastor — If it were not for the R.R. expenses of home-miss'y pastors and myself I might have many opportunities of the sort — I have ½ fare permit over Gt. Northern & No Pacific R.R. —

HOPE, N. D. Dec. 3d, 1890.

Rev. KJudson Smith, D.D.
Sec. Am Board, Boston, Mass.,

DEAR SIR:- My reply to yours of Nov. 17th, is delayed not from lack of interest in the subject, but from pressure of work. Last Su. I presented the cause to two young churches, Harwood & Argusville. The collections only paid expenses and 30 cts over. But perhaps an interest is started which will stir some few prayers for the work and offerings from year to year.

I am in most hearty sympathy with the Shansi Mission in its call some four years ago for lay workers; and with the Shanghai Conference in its representations. Ihave not the time now to carefully prepare a letter upon the subject, and do not like to hold your inquiries longer without reply. I believe that so far as our Mission is concerned, there is no immediate prospect of native laborers whose attainments will enable them to bear the responsibilities of those forms of work which our Mission has to do to some extent, and ought to do to a great extent, but is unable for lack of workers. The opium relief work was always contemplated as a special field of labor for the persons asked for. A very thoroughly organized and carefully superintended work of that sort is absolutely necessary in such a field as ours. Neither physicians with their medical work, or ordained miss. with the opportunities for direct teaching, ought to attempt this work. Without it a vast amount of evangelistic labor is hindered from its fruit. We will not knowingly baptize an opium user, and an opium using candidate is alone practically helpless to reform and prepare himself for church-membership. I suppose itis true that considerably more than half the adult population of the T'ai yuan Plain use the drug in one form of another. If so the matter becomes immensely important in our work. Native Chinese cannot be trusted at all to do this work. Lay Miss. can as well do it and at the same time accomplish a useful evangelistic work, as ord. miss. can, while the latter are overwhelmed with work that laymen cannot so well or at least so generally attempt. There are other branches of work that they will do. This matter has nothing to do with training the nativ churches to labor in all forms of christian work. It does not affect at all the development of the native ministry, but sets free for more valuable opportunities the highest trained missionaries, who are now partly hindered in the effort to enlarge and perhaps create those best opportunities.

To send these lay workers would hasten the day when the whole miss;y force can be withdrawn. I do not at all conceive of any opportunity ~~than~~ increased by their presence to diminish the activities of native Christians but on the other hand increased opportunities and inspirations to such activities.

On the matter of salaries you seem to have fallen into a curious mistake. There cannot be two grades of salaries any more than now. There may be grades of salaries among the Secretarial force at home. I dont know. I know of no reason why there should be. It is all one work at home and over sea. There should be one consecration to it. If on the Mission field various abilities are taken no account of and all receive alike an average support for an average family according to the cost of living in the different fields and localities where they reside, why should not the same rule be applied every-where . I hope it is. A lay missionary then single or married, though he has not spent so many years and dollars in his mental equipment and training cannot thrive on any poorer food or any less quantity of it than his better educated brother. We write the word "salary" but the Manual distinctly says it is not compensation in any proper sense. And most certainly it is not. The money received out of the gifts of the churches in salaries of Secs. and Miss.s is only help"to ~~carry~~ carry out the benevolent purpose of his own ~~self~~ independent self- consecration." The question of salary is entirely irrelevant. The call of such a body of missionaries as that at Shanghai must be largely effective in moving some conservative Societies out of their old time tracks.

My family continue well. Winter has come with the thermometers ranging from 14 to 20 below zero. The change was very sudden - with the incoming of December. November has been altogether delightful. We do not anticipate a very cold and blizzardy winter. Whatever the weather may be we intend to abide in HOPE and wait for the glad Spring-time.

Very truly yours,

M. L. Stimson.

Hope, Dec. 3. 1890.
Rec'd Dec. 8.

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HOPE, N. D., Mar. 7, 1891

Rev. Judson Smith D. D. .
Sec'y of the Am. Board, Boston, Mass.,

My Dear Dr. Smith: Since I came to North Dakota my health has steadily improved, and I believe I am as strong and well as before I went to China in 1881. This being so it is my wife's and my own supremest pleasure to turn our thoughts to the old work. That we might do so has been our almost constant prayer since we left Shansi. Sometimes we have felt a good deal discouraged about the Mission being allowed to develop as it deserves to do. For a long time we were greatly discouraged about my health. About the latter encouragement has been great the last few months and steadily increasing. Of the former we see more plainly that it is characteristic of the work of the Board every where. A fault of the system of many little efforts in many lands - too old to be much mended now. We are growing more content to go on with our individual effort and see God on the field when most invisible. We enjoy and have been blessed in our work these past months, and if we cannot go back to the foreign work are content to remain in this. But our heart's-love is over the sea, and with recovering health and increasing strength has grown greater our fervent desire to return to that beloved people and work to whom we first dedicated ourselves for a life work. After so long discouragement it will be a peculiar joy if we may with the Lord's good help carry out our plan of a life consecrated to that work. Not to do so when we have the strength for it will ever make us feel as if truant to first duty.

We have been urged by some friends who are dear to us to give up China once and for all, but have not felt that we could think of it unless Providence should distinctly close the door to us. So we were unwilling any where to engage our service for longer than one year or to be installed in any church. The two years in this country are not lost to our profit if we go back. We have been helped in many ways. The work we have tried to do both last year and this has brot to us we believe some new views of truth and some spiritual help that we needed for our work over there. Theologically I suppose I stand mainly where I did in '81. Liberals in this community think me too orthodox, so I suppose I am not inclined to prevalent views depriving my Lord of his divinity and his word of credibility. I have the last two years reached a clearer view of Infant Baptism than I had before, — say than I had when Hosehold Baptism fell to my lot in your examination of our class on Positive Institutions. You disowned my remarks then to the Committee, but would probably accept my views now.

As in this matter so in others I probably hold doctrines in a different degrree of relative importance, and some I may view from a different point than before, But I am certain that my theology would be sufficiently approved. The Prudential Committee will wish to know quite exactly about my health. I was under the treatment of Dr. Chas. McBurney of No. 40 W. 36th Street, New York City all of the winter of '89-90. Under his treatment I was relieved from Hepatic Colic of which I have had no return since some time before I left New-York. But strength to endure hard work seemed not to pass a certain point of improvement until I came to Dakota. Here I continued for a short time the drug treatment and then gave it up entirely. With the cessation of the biliary derangement the pain at the appendix of the bowel became quiescent. Dr. McBurney's final opinion as to that peculiar trouble was that, as it had been inactive for 23 years it may be expected to remain so unless I meet with some peculiar accident that might cause inflammation of the part. It was undoubtedly inflamed somewhat by the passage of so much clear bile. It has ceased to trouble me for a long time though painful to deep pressure as it always has been. Dr. McB. attempted to work a constitutional change toward the bilious trouble. Though I had grave doubts of it when I last saw him, I now believe he succeeded.

Rec'd Mar 13

I know of nothing to make one doubtful of the permanency of my recovery, beyond the simple fact that I have had this trouble heretofore. And I feel a large measure of confidence that I have learned how to maintain my immunity from this particular trouble in Shansi or here. As to Mrs Stimson and our four children , they have had perfect health all the time excepting only the attack of measles a year ago. They are very rugged now.

My engagement for one year with this church will close on the 15 of July. It is desirable for both our own and the church's interests that we should know our designs for another year as soon as possible. I thought there might be cause for more correspondence, or I would have deferred the writing of this for two months or so. Mrs. Stimson however desires an early decision to plan with reference to outfit.sewing. I am planning a Missionary Concert for Sunday evening the 15th. and give a popular lecture on China in the Arcade Hall on the 18th and preach on Foreign Missions on 22d hoping to stir the congregation to a fair collection. It will be the first ever taken here so far as I can learn. Our collection for the C. Union was $13. and for the A. H. M. S. $22.50 which is more than has been contributed here for benevolent S ocieties in two years before. We are greatly grieved at the process of retrenchment.

Very truly yours,

M L Stimson

Amenia, N. D., March [illegible], 1892

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,
Secretary of the Am. Board,

DEAR SIR: Please find enclosed herewith a tissue copy of a letter which it seemed advisable to me to address to the members of the Prudential Committee's sub-committee on China. and to which I wish to allude in some matters herein to save time and space. And in the same connection will you not kindly bear with me in the request that the whole of this present be read without omission to the meeting of the Prudential Committee.

In your last letter to me, dated April 8th, 1891, you advise my wife and I to 'let events take their course for the present until you hear further from the Committee' and concluded with the assurance that you knew that we would "take patiently this conclusion and wait with hope the course of future events.' ELEVEN MONTHS have passed away and no further word has come to us. We have waited patiently and in hope, but, we judge, also in vain.

I cannot hope, my dear sir, in attempting to write you again, to disguise the fact that we feel exceedingly hurt at what seems to us an unkind silence, altogether at variance with the sentiments of kind personal appreciation and of recognition of our labors and our love for the Shansi Mission, found in your previous letters. (See enclosure pages 4 and 5.)

After consecrating our lives and being accepted for the work of the gospel in Shansi; after spending over seven of our best years there, having gained a knowledge of the language and an experience of but little or no value elsewhere; coming home broken down in health; despairing for a long time of complete recovery, always hoping and longing to go back to the work we love; working in every opportunity for the interests of the mission, securing for it reenforcements, renewing the interest of Oberlin in its field and work; refusing to send for our library, a great self-denial in our labors here; practicing every economy; comforted in our trial and encouraged in our hopes by letters from the mission and from yourself; when at length assured of complete health we joyfully turn our eyes back to the old home and work, suddenly hindrance is made of Mr. Atwood's return and 'other things' indefinite of which your letter was the first intimation that had come to us from either the mission or the Board. I wish the kindliest forbearance of the Committee with the remark, that it seems very strange to us that a missionary of whom his brethren ~~soul~~ and the Secretary could write so pleasantly (See extract from your letter to me of Mar. 25, /91.) could also be so suddenly "turned down' by the Committee. Are the attainments of seven years of study in so difficult a language and of experience, at the so great expense to the Board, to be lightly scorned and tossed aside? Is a man's consecration to such a work at a time when the Secretary is writing of the difficulty of securing men, to be so easily thwarted? Are the majority of the members of the mission to be denied the help of one for whom they have been hoping and praying so long and with whom some of them have worked so long and most happily, because of an opposition which seems even to them unreasonable? (see extracts on page 8 of enclosure.)

To a friend inquiring why I was not returned, you wrote thatt it was because of former "friction" with others in the mission, conveying the distinct impression does it not that I was chiefly to blame for that friction? I can hardly believe that you think so, though I am aware that such an impression exists quite widely in the N. C. Mission and field. I have heard it there, and in this country also by their report, that I am held responsible for Mr. Tenney's theological and moral decay, for Mr. Atwood's desertion of our mission, for Dr. Osborne's recall, and I know not what else. But this is because of libellous utterances from a source easily suspected. One of those persons at the coast who easily enlarge upon as well as believe 'hearsay' after abusing me right roundly to a member of our mission, when rebuked for untruths, excused himself that he was 'only voicing the general opinion of the coast." The same person even ventured to write another member of our mission in the same strain and got a "blowing up" for it from him. I did not know of this until after I came away, and this trouble monger had never seen my face until I came homeward. Of ~~[illegible]~~ people like him the last named brother wrote me: "# - "These good christian people in talking about their brethren, very often lie--under a mistake, and thus convey a false impression without intending to falsify." Surely the Committee cannot intend to allow the force of their action to attach such a stigma upon one who if not indeed always wisely, yet faithfully tried to serve the best spiritual interests of the mission.

Now as to the matter of the permanence of my health, I have to say that I am better now than ever since I was eleven years old, and for about a year and a half have had none of the symptoms of biliousness which I always had before I went to China and which were intensified into the disease from which I suffered such agonies there. I went to Fargo lately and was examined by the best physician in the north-west. I enclose his certificate. I have no acquaintance with him but he thoughtfully asked me to say that he will be glad to answer any particular inquiries and submit me to any further examination that may be necessary for it.

Please carefully read Mr. Atwood's letter to me on page 7 of the enclosure, also the extracts from other members including Mr. Clapp on pages 2, 3, and 4.

If you have received anything in the form of statements of fact or of accusations prejudicial to my case I respectfully ask the privilege, as formerly given to Dr. Osborne, of examining them and of replying briefly if I feel there is particular injustice or unfairness in them. My correspondents lead me to suppose that your letter to the mission has in some way revived matters that were probably otherwise dead so that two members refuse to make unanimous the action that the others heartily urge. They are not definitely named to me in this connection. They ought to have excellent reasons inside the bounds of christian charity for their course and if so I suppose it will be right and fair that I should know why and how they prejudice my return. Here I may say that I had yesterday another communication from Mr. Clapp fraternal; newsy, and inquiring after my "prospects" , but not a reference any way about our return.

Your letter asked me to wait while you sought light on various important points. The months have sped . We have waited and hoped. I cannot think you will blame us if at last, we after so long a time we write you again. We have worked earnestly here in these difficult home fields with what faithfulness and what measure of success the Cong. Superintendents, Messrs Simmons of Home Missions, and Stickney of Sunday Schools, will no doubt correctly inform you, if asked. But we can do more, or at anyrate better use our attainments in China. In all reason our work there should be more valuable than here. Our hearts are there in the mission we began, with brethren we have loved, for a people we have learned to respect as well as pity. To be so rudely and suddenly prevented causes a sense of disappointment and sorrow and discouragement that we cannot escape from. We cannot cease to pray for the people and the success of the mission; we cannot pray for the work without breaking down over the keen smart of a life-work ruthlessly destroyed. The letters full of an unaffected sympathy from disappointed brethren is but an insufficient balm, while cool advice to apply ourselves to the home work seems almost like a cruel taunt. One returned Missionary will hardly speak so to another. One who loves the work and has tasted its experiences and been debarred from it for a time, knows how to sympathize with us.

May we not then , gentlemen of the Prudential Committee, again formally apply for reappointment to the Shansi Mission?

We feel that it is necessary for reasons alluded to in the enclosure. that we be soon definitely determined about the sphere of our future work, so we ask for an immediate decision, though we would not unduly hurry the Committee,

Now, while willing that others should impute to us an even third of the responsibility and blame for the unhappiness experienced in the past from our relations with Mr. Tenney and Mr. Atwood when we were associated in the mission, but feeling that more than that amount of ignominy is an unjust burden if imposed upon us by men and confident that it will not be by the Master who knoweth the hearts of all, we do solemnly promise that, if permitted to return to the work for which our hearts most lovingly yearn, we will in the future, carefully maintain the christian peace and harmony of the mission;will bear and forbear# all things; that we forgive and wish to be forgiven the wrongs of the past; will rejoice to serve in the humblest positions our brethren and our Lord loving all in Christ as we wish to be loved, and all this that we may preach again to the Chinese in their language the glorious riches of Christ and his salvation. We feel that this is no small thing that we covenant to do, but relying only upon divine grace to supply all our need and to help out our weakness we believe we can do it. And if the Lord please we can yet accomplish much for the glory of his name. If we do, here, or there, the praise and honor shall be His.

In conclusion let me say that the letters quoted from and all others touching this matter which I have received are in my files and can be shown if you desire.

Yours respectfully and in faith love and hope

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Emily H. Stimson,

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Rev. M. L. Stimson 5
Lansing, Mich., Mar. 18, 1892
Filed March 24.

Amenia, N. D., March 12th. 1888.

To the Rev. A. C. Thompson D. D.
Chairman Prud. Com. of the Am. Board.

DEAR AND RESPECTED SIR: Three years ago this month on account of impaired health and a physicians urgent recommendation, with the permission of the Shansi Mission, I left with my family the field and work in which my wife and I had been engaged for seven and a half years and returned to this country. We came away with only the contents of our trunks, leaving our library packed in boxes ready for shipment if health should not be recovered. The following winter I was under medical treatment for several months by Dr. Chas. McBurney of New York City. My health was greatly improved but not recovered in the spring, and I asked Sec. Smith to secure for me permission to remain longer in this country, or, preferably, permission to seek pastoral work for support. Per[illegible] to do the latter was obtained [illegible] a present of $600 was received with gratitude at the suggestion of Sec. Smith to tide my family over the delays and the expense incident to securing a permanent employment. In July I moved to this state both for the sake of doing "missionary labor" and the hope of climatic benefit to my health. My strength rapidly recruited here. Last March, feeling that I had been for nine months enjoying the best of health and was fully recovered from every symptom of my disease I sent my application for reappointment to Sec. Smith. The reply was one of hesitation on account of fear about impermanence of my recovery. I wrote again and urgently that my health at that time and not at the time I came home should be the thing considered; and so sure was I of my complete recovery that I offered to go either to Minneapolis or Chicago at my own expense for R.R. fares to be examined by any physician the officers of the Board might designate. Secretary Smith replied under date of 8th of April a weak reiteration of health reasons in the first paragraph and the balance of the letter as follows: "The fact that Mr. Atwood has recently rejoined the mission would make necessary as you of course understand, some further correspondence with the mission before the Committee could see its way clearly in the case. Some other things bearing on the same general point as this fact that Mr. Atwood is now a member of the Shansi mission were mentioned in the discussion yesterday which would still further lead the Committee to hesitate about taking up the question at present.

You are engaged happily and effectively in Christian work, and it would seem well that you should throw yourself heartily into that work and let events take their course for the present until you hear further from the Committee and until further light

upon the permanency of your recovery, on the judgment of the mission, and other points has been gained. I could heartily wish that the reply which I am authorized to send you were different in terms and outlook; but I am obliged of course to report the facts as they are, and I know you and Mrs. Stimson too well to think that although disappointed you will not take patiently this conclusion and wait with hope the course of future events.'

This , my dear sir, was the first intimation I had received from either the Board or the Mission of personal grounds other than my health. Please retrace with me the same period of time with reference to other facts.

We left Taiku May 6th, 1889 (having rested there over Sunday with hearty expressions of regret and hopes of an early return to China. And in our correspondence from the mission there has been no different expression as you may judge from extracts:

From Mr. Thompson, my colleague at Fen-chou Fu,

Oct. 28, /89. 'You will receive a hearty welcome when you return.'

Nov. 25, /89. 'We sorely need you, and we all hope to see you back this year.'

Mar. 1, /90. 'Dr. Smith writes hopefully of your case and we all hope to see you back next fall.'

July 11, /90. 'It is a disappointment to us to find that you cannot come back this fall.' 'Somehow or other we fully expected you. Atwood expects you to return in the fall'

Oct. 5, /90. 'We think of and pray for you constantly and we hope you may be able to join us next fall. . . Sec. Smith wrote us a while ago of the reappointment of Mr. Atwood.'

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June 25, /91. (after Sec. Smith's letter to the mission.) 'I am surprised and sorry to hear that you are not coming back this year.' 'I do not know how Atwood and Clapp will vote on the question. All the others will give you a cordial welcome.'

Here it will be proper to say that in the personal unpleasantness in the year or so after Mr. Thompson came into the mission, between myself and Mr. Tenney, Mr. Thompson's sympathies were entirely with Mr. Tenney and Mr. Atwood. And he seemed to view me with so much suspicion that we did not become intimately acquainted until circumstances made it almost imperative for Mr. Thompson to share with me the work in Fen-chou Fu. We were stationed there together for a year and a half; very pleasantly [illegible]

From Mr. F. M. Price.

Mar. 13, /90. "We were all sorry to learn that the prospect of your early return to China was not at that time especially bright. For this I am profoundly sorry, both for your own sake and those here in Shansi who so much need your valuable services."

Apr. 14, /90. "I sincerely trust and earnestly pray that you may be able to return to the work here."

Jan. 27, /91. "Glad that there is a prospect of your being able to take up your work in China, which you laid down two year ago with such reluctance. I only wish that I were able to go with you. I think there is little doubt that the Am. Board will gladly avail themselves of your services. The only question is of health." Otherwise "no need to fear."

Apr. 21, /91. (after reading Dr. Smith's last four letters to me.) "deeply sympathize with you. . . . You and I have wrought together on the mission field and wrought happily." "We love you as brother and sister."

Nov. 24, /91. "I wrote to Dr. J. Smith that you were just the man needed in Shansi and expressed my deep regret that there should have been any hesitancy about returning you to your chosen work."

Dec. 24, /91. - thinks I will soon hear favorably from the Com.

Jan. 26, /92. - surprised that I have not heard from the Committee

From Mr. Davis.

Aug. 1, /90. "The whole body if I may judge from my own feelings and those I hear others express is deeply grieved to hear of your resignation. . . . Sec. Smith informs me that there is still a possibility of your return in a year or two. God grant it!

Aug. 21, /91. "Your disappointment is mine and I wish that my pen were more eloquent that you might receive at my hands the sympathy you deserve."

From Mr. C. N. Price.

Aug. 25, /91. 'I write at once to express our deep regret that there should be any delay in acting upon your request. I assure you that there is no one whom I would more gladly welcome to the work.'

From Mr. Clapp. (CAPS are mine.)

I have had three very pleasant letters from Mr. Clapp, and Mrs. Stimson one or two from Mrs. Clapp. The first reached me not long after our arrival in this country. The next is dated a year later.:

Feb. 15, /90. 'Bro. Thompson has been granted permission to open Wen Shui Hsien & to locate there WHEN YOU GET BACK.' 'So you see that it is important that you COME BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.' 'I WISH THAT YOU WERE HERE NOW so that Brother T. could move right up there.'

Certainly nothing has occurred in the mean time to cause any change from such kindly sentiments. I could not return then. When I offered to, as below, it was not deemed wise that I should. Almost a year later, my health then recovered, and our Louis having come into the family and all being well, I wrote to Mr. Clapp as I did to others, of our intention soon to offer ourselves again. In reply Mrs. Stimson and I had long letters from them very delightfully written except that there was not a syllable about our return, and that is surprising. They were dated May 13, but we had applied Mar. 7th, and long before they were received by us we had been surprised and shocked beyond measure by Sec. Smith's last communication. We have felt astonished to learn that Mr. Clapp is opposed to our return.

From Sec. Smith. (CAPS are mine.)

Jan. 16, /90. 'I know how eagerly you will desire to return, and I hope it will be possible for you to go.'

Mar. 29, /90. (Granting me release from the claims of the Board.) 'I am sure I only express the feeling of all the members of the Committee and the Executive Officers when I add that it is with great regret that we consent under the circumstances to the sundering of your connection with the Board.' 'I can easily anticipate the regret amounting almost to dismay with which your brethren in the mission will learn of this action.'

In all our conversations in Boston with regard to this Sec. Smith styled the matter a 'temporary release.' and I never thought of it otherwise than that save only as my non-recovery might make it so.

At the meeting in Minneapolis two years ago I mentioned to Sec. Smith my regret that my name was removed from the list of missionaries in the Year-book. He replied that he had not noticed it, and knew no reason for it.

On the return of Mr. Price leaving the force greatly crippled I offered to return to Shansi at once if the Committee deemed it expedient.

May. 5./90. 'No loss could be so great as your continued absence and the permanent withdrawal of Mr. Price.' 'Still it seems that the emergency is not such as to make it wise for you to think of returning to Shansi at this time.'

My application for reappointment was dated Mar. 7. /91. I being then recovered in health.

Mar. 14, /91. (mentions nothing but health and the straitened resources of the Board) 'In your case there is the fact of previous service which would modify this judgment.'

Mar. 25, /91. (After action by the Committee) 'It would be too much to say that the question of your return is absolutely closed by this action.' (HEALTH ONLY is mentioned as the ground of hesitation.) 'I KNOW that your former associates WILL HEAR THIS NEWS WITH REGRET, for THEIR LETTERS have shown how much they VALUE YOUR SERVICES and HOW GLADLY THEY WOULD SEE YOU AMONG THEM AGAIN.' 'I regret that your desires may not now be realized. . . . and I ~~hope~~ wish that the way might be open for your resumption of labor in China.'

Now I remark that it seems to me surpassing strange, if any member of the Committee suggested that perhaps I was not wanted in ~~this~~ the Mission, that THOSE LETTERS from the brethren were not read to the Committee. They should have proved sufficient to settle the minds of the Committee. This certainly did not lead me to surmise that there was an ulterior reason for refusing my application, and I wrote in reply an urgent letter to the effect that the question should be, not how sick I was when I came home, but how well I then was and if there was reasonable assurance of permanence of health. And if I offered to go to Minneapolis or even to Chicago at my own expense for carfares to be thoroughly examined by any doctor the Sec. might arrange for.

Apr. 4, /91. 'Your letter makes a strong impression on my mind; and leads me to hope that the way may certainly open for your resumption of work in China.'

Apr. 8, /91. -See pages 1 and 2 of this letter. Not a word further have I received from the Committee or the Sec'y to this day, fully ELEVEN MONTHS. We have waited as patiently as we could. I hope my waiting now will not

seem to you unreasonably impatient.

From the Annual Report for 1890, page 79.

-"We and Mrs. Stimson have been released . . . not without the earnest hope that in the near future the service in Shansi so dear to their hearts may wisely be resumed."

Above this is Mr. Atwood's name in the list of missionaries.

For my part I know of no reason why with the practice of ordinary christian forbearance and charity any two men who are fit to be ministers of the gospel cannot work together in the same mission or even if by choice they may not associate in the same station. Before Mr. Atwood had, so far as I know and thought of leaving the mission I proposed in mission meeting that we organize a new station at Fen-chou Fu, and each station be conducted under the methods preferred by its members and I promised that for my part I would treat the plans and requests of Taiku station in our mission meetings with the same charityr courtesy, and fairness. that we would ask of them for our own station. Mr. Thompson was then of a mind with Mr. Atwood, and Mr. Clapp was supposed to hold to conservative methods, and so was I. But Mr. Atwood left us. It was necessary that I go on with plans for Fen-chou Fu alone until Mr. Price should arrive. After some months letters to others were spoken of in which Mr. Atwood regretted his move and expressed the feeling that he belonged in Shansi that his life-work was intended for that field, and that he felt sorry about it. In the latter part of 1888 I signed an invitation which was unanimous for Mr. Atwood to return. I was not especially jubilant , for I felt that it had been hard to get along pleasantly. However Mr. At- looked at our relations, it seemed to me that for a long timeI had been criticised and opposed in every best endeavor both for work and for peace. But we confidently expected that Mr. Atwood would be returned. I wrote to Sec. Smith and to friends in the N. C. Mission favoring his return. Copies of these letters are at hand As will be seen from the extracts above others did not suppose that the coming back of one of us was to shut the other out or be a stumbling block to desire. After reading Sec. Smith's last letter it seemed to me that if Mr. Atwood's return was conditioned on my rejection, I had been treated in a very unfair manner, in this at least, that the fact had not been written to me. In all these months I have refused to act on the advice of friends and send for my books which I have so much needed in my work. and everywhere I had expressed the hope of recovery and returning to the work in Shansi, and this hope had constant spur as you have seen both from the mission and from the Secretary of the Board. I had no suspicion that any member of my own mission was opposed to my return or that any opposition existed in the rooms of t e Board until I received the last letter from Sec. Smith. What he meant by permanency of recovery I understood. To him I send at this time a certificate from the best reputed physician in these parts, an entire stranger to me. What further light was needed on the judgment of the mission after the expressions of his letter of only a half- month earlier I could not conceive. What the "other points" are or the "some other things bearing upon the same general point as that Mr. Atwood is now a member of the mission" is a question unanswered. The whole suggestion seemed to me strange and unreasonable. I at once wrote to Mr. Atwood a personal letter asking him, if there was any opposition in his mind to my returning, to please destroy an enclosed letter to the mission and to ship my library to me at once. Mr. Atwood wrote me the letter copied below, sent the enclosure to the mission and has not notified me of the shipping of my boxes.

Letter from Mr. Atwood.

Fen Cho Fu Aug. 1st '91.

Rev. M. L. Stimson, Hope N. D.

My dear Mr. Stimson: Your letter of Apr. 14th written from Hope N.D., reached me by the last courier but one. I cannot but sympathize with you in your disappointment and delay in carrying out of plans for returning to Shansi. Still I hope that the appreciation of your work in the home field which I am glad to see from the home papers will be in some measure a compensation for your disappointment at present delay and that ultimately the way may ~~[illegible]~~ open before you according to your desire.

I sent your letter on its way around the mission. But as you are aware at this season of the year couriers are not always a certain quantity and at the best it will require some time before the mission can be got together as the Clapps are at the coast, and action taken according to Sec. Smith's ~~desire.~~ request. I do not think there is any one in the mission who would oppose your return to Shansi and if the Prud. Com. sees its way clear to return you we should heartily welcome you to Fen Cho Fu to identify yourself in the work here again. I find it a little awkward to maintain my own identity and yours too. I am often accosted as Mien Hsien Seng on the streets.

'We have a dispensary' etc.

'The general outlook is very hopeful' etc.

With kindest remembrances to Mrs. Stimson I am

Yours most cordially.

(signed) I. J. Atwood.

After such a letter from Mr. Atwood and such expressions from every other member of the mission with whom I have had acquaintance and including Mr. Clapp, it seems inexplicable that there is opposition to my return. I have received two letters from members of the mission since I began this communication. Both were written in December. One has these words: "We are sorrowful that you and Mrs. Stimson are hindered from joining us this fall. I cannot help feeling that the objection arises from a mistaken feeling." The other says: "It is an immense pity for a man of your experienc not to be able to resume this work, and it is a sad commentary on the christian spirit of the mission that we are not unanimous in earnestly inviting you back."

In conclusion let me say that I have continued to expect a favorable reply from your Committee; that I have kept my path open that I might return at short notice; that I have reached quite nearly to the limit of my patience and that circumstances will soon require, if we remain much longer in this country, expenditures for the comfort of my family, which later will make a return to China an unreasonable sacrifice.

I formally apply for the last time now and if my request is not granted will you not in christian kindness have the exact and truthful reasons stated to me. If there are accusations or prejudicial statements from members of the mission, why may I not first be shown them and allowed a chance to reply to them as was done in Dr. Osborne's case. Treated as I have been in this matter I still dislike to feel that our Board - a great religious corporation - has no soul. And after reading the above extracts of correspondence it seems to me that you must be astonished at the course into which the matter has fallen. I depend upon you and your associates to see to it that courteous and fair attention is given to my case. At the same time I also write a letter to Sec. Smith with the definite request that it be read ~~to~~ entire to the Prudential Committee. Copies of this I also send to Rev. Dr. A. H. Plumb and Hon. Joseph S. Ropes.

With thanks for the careful reading of this letter, and with an hearty desire to serve the Lord in the gospel of peace and salvation among the Chinese.

I am very respectfully yours,

M. E. Stimson

Rev. M. E. Stimson
[illegible] Mar. 19, 92
Filed March 23

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Rev. M. P. Stimson
Answered Mar. 12, '92
Filed March 24

Amenia, N. D., March 19th, 1892.

To the Rev. A. C. Thompson D. D.

Chairman Prud. Com. of the Am. Board.

DEAR AND RESPECTED SIR: Three years ago this month on account of impaired health and a physicians urgent recommendation, with the permission of the Shansi Mission, I left with my family the field and work in which my wife and I had been engaged for seven and a half years and returned to this country. We came away with only the contents of our trunks, leaving our library packed in boxes ready for shipment if health should not be recovered. The following winter I was under medical treatment for several months by Dr. Chas. McBurney of New York City. My health was greatly improved but not recovered in the spring, and I asked Sec. Smith to secure for me permission to remain longer in this country, or, preferably, permission to seek pastoral work for support. Permission to do the latter was obtained and a present of $600 was received with gratitude at the suggestion of Sec. Smith to tide my family over the delays and the expense incident to securing a permanent employment. In July I moved to this state both for the sake of doing "missionary labor" and the hope of climatic benefit to my health. My strength rapidly recruited here. Last March, feeling that I had been for some months enjoying the best of health and was fully recovered from every symptom of my disease I sent my application for reappointment to Sec. Smith. The reply was one of hesitation on account of fear about impermanence of my recovery. I wrote again and urgently that my health at that time and not at the time I came home should be the thing considered; and so sure was I of my complete recovery that I offered to go either to Minneapolis or Chicago at my own expense for R.R. fares to be examined by any physician the officers of the Board might designate. Secretary Smith replied under date of 8th of April '91 a weak reiteration of health reasons in the first paragraph and the balance of the letter as follows: "The fact that Mr. Atwood has recently rejoined the mission would make necessary as you of course understand, some further correspondance with the mission before the Committee could see its way clearly in the case. Some other things bearing on the same general point as this fact that Mr. Atwood is now a member of the Shansi mission were mentioned in the discussion yesterday which would still further lead the Committee to hesitate about taking up the question at present

You are engaged happily and effectively in Christian work, and it would seem well that you should throw yourself heartily into that work and let events take their course for the present until you hear further from the Committee and until further light

Amenia, N. D., March 18th, 1898.

To the Rev. A. C. Thompson D. D.

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June 25, /91. (after Sec. Smith's letter to the mission.) "I am surprised and sorry to hear that you are not coming back this year." "I do not know how Atwood and Clapp will vote on the question. All the others will give you a ~~hearty~~ cordial welcome."

Here it will be proper to say that in the personal unpleasantness, in the year or so after Mr. Thompson came into the mission, be-upon the permanency of your recovery, on the judgment of the mission, and other points has been gained... I could heartily wish that the reply which I am authorized to send you were different in terms and outlook; but I am obliged of course to report the facts as they are, and I know you and Mrs. Stimson too well to think that although disappointed you will not take patiently this conclusion and wait with hope the course of future events.'

This, my dear sir, was the first intimation I had received from either the Board or the Mission of personal grounds other than my health. Please retrace with me the same period of time with reference to other facts.

We left Taiku Mar. 4th, 1889 (having rested there over Sunday with hearty expressions of regret and hopes of an early return to China. And in our correspondence from the mission there has been no different expression as you may judge from extracts:

From Mr. Thompson, my colleague at Fen-chou Fu.

Oct. 26. /89. 'You will receive a hearty welcome when you return.'

Nov. 27. /89. 'We sorely need you, and we all hope to see you back this year.'

Mar. 1. /89. 'Dr. Smith writes hopefully of your case and we all hope to see you back in the fall.'

July 11. /90. 'It is a disappointment to us to find that you cannot come back this year.' 'Somehow or other we fully expected you. Atwood expects you to return in the fall'

Oct. 5. /90. 'We think of and pray for you constantly and we hope you may be able to join us next fall. ' Sec. Smith wrote us a while ago of the reappointment of Mr. Atwood.'

May 11. /91. 'I am truly glad that you feel well enough to take up work here again. It would be cause for regret if you who have toured & preached, & worked here so much already could not return and follow up the results of your toil'

'If you and Atwood can so far bury the hatchet as to live peaceably at this station this station will have a bright outlook. Consecration will I trust lead to this desirable result.' 'Now that you are coming,' etc.

June 25, /91. (after Sec. Smith's letter to the mission.) 'I am surprised and sorry to hear that you are not coming back this year.' 'I do not know how Atwood and Clapp will vote on the question. All the others will give you a cordial hearty welcome.'

Here it will be proper to say that in the personal unpleasantness, in the year or so after Mr. Thompson came into the mission, between myself and Mr. Tenney, Mr. Thompson's sympathies were entirely with Mr. Tenney and Mr. Atwood, and he seemed to view me with so much suspicion that we did not become intimately acquainted until circumstances made it almost imperatively for Mr. Thompson to share with me the work in Fen-chou Fu. We were stationed there together for a year and a half; very pleasantly too.

From Mr. F. M. Price.

Mar. 13, /90. 'We were all sorry to learn that the prospect of your early return to China was not at that time especially bright. For this I am profoundly sorry, both for your own sake and those here in Shansi who so much need your valuable services.'

Apr. 14, /90. 'I sincerely trust and earnestly pray that you may be able to return to the work here.'

Jan. 27, /91. 'Glad that there is a prospect of your being able to take up your work in China, which you laid down two year ago with such reluctance. I only wish that I were able to go with you. I think there is little doubt that the Am. Board will gladly avail themselves of your services. The only question is of health.' Otherwise 'no need to fear.'

Apr. 21, /91. (after reading Dr. Smith's last four letters to me.) 'deeply sympathise with you. . . . You and I have wrought together on the mission field and wrought happily.' 'We love you as brother and sister.'

Nov. 24, /91. 'I wrote to Dr. J. Smith that you were just the man needed in Shansi and expressed my deep regret that there should have been any hesitancy about returning you to your chosen work.'

Dec. 24, /91. - thinks I will soon hear favorably from the Com.

Jan. 26, /92. - surprised that I have not heard from the Committee

From Mr. Davis.

Aug. 1, /90. 'The whole body if I may judge from my own feelings and those I hear others express is deeply grieved to hear of your resignation. . . . Sec. Smith informs me that there is still a possibility of your return in a year or two. God grant it!

Aug. 21, /91. 'Your disappointment is mine and I wish that my pen were more eloquent that you might receive at my hands the sympathy you deserve.'

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From Mr. F. M. Price.

Mar. 15, /90. "We were all sorry to learn that the prospect of your early return to China was not at that time especially bright. For this I am profoundly sorry, both for your own sake and those here in Shansi who so much need your valuable services."

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From Mr. C. W. Price.

Aug. 25, /91. 'I write at once to express our deep regret that there should be any delay in acting upon your request. I assure you that there is no one whom I would more gladly welcome to the work.'

From Mr. Clapp. (CAPS are mine.)

I have had three very pleasant letters from Mr. Clapp, and Mrs. Stimson one or two from Mrs. Clapp. The first reached me not long after our arrival in this country. The next is dated a year later.:

Feb. 15, /90. 'Bro. Thompson has been granted ~~leave~~ permission to open Wen Shui Hsien & to locate there WHEN YOU GET BACK.' 'So you see that it is important that you COME BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.' 'I WISH THAT YOU WERE HERE NOW so that Brother T. could move right up there.'

Certainly nothing has occured in the mean time to cause any change from such kindly sentiments. I could not return then. When I offered to , as below, it was not deemed wise that I should. Almost a year later, my health then recovered, and our Louis having come into the family and all being well, I wrote to Mr. Clapp as I did to others, of our intention soon to offer ourselves again. In reply Mrs. Stimson and I had long letters from them very delightfully written except that there was not a syllable about our return, and that is surprising. They were dated May 13, but we had applied Mar. 7th, and long before they were received by us we had been surprised and shocked beyond measure by Sec. Smith's last communication. We have felt astonished to learn that Mr. Clapp is opposed to our return.

From Sec. Smith. (CAPS are mine.)

Jan. 16, /90. 'I know how eagerly you will desire to return, and I hope it will be possible for you to go.'

Mar. 29, /90. (Granting me release from the claims of the Board.) 'I am sure I only express the feeling of all the members of the Committee and the Executive Officers when I add that it is with great regret that we consent under the circumstances to the sundering of your connection with the Board.' 'I can easily anticipate the regret amounting almost to dismay with which your brethren in the mission will learn of this action.'

In all our conversations in Boston with regard to this Sec. Smith styled the matter a 'temporary release,' and I never thought of it otherwise than that save only as my non-recovery might make it so.

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At the meeting in Minneapolis two years ago I mentioned to Sec. Smith my regret that my name was removed from the list of missionaries in the Year-book. He replied that he had not noticed it, and knew no reason for it.

On the return of Mr. Price leaving the force greatly crippled I offered to return to Shansi at once if the Committee deemed it expedient.

May. 5,/90. 'No loss could be so great as your continued absence and the permanent withdrawal of Mr. Price.' 'Still it seems that the emergency is not such as to make it wise for you to think of returning to Shansi at this time.'

My application for reappointment was dated Mar. 7, /91. I being th then recovered in health.

Mar. 14, /91. (mentions nothing but health and the straitened resources of the Board). 'In your case there is the fact of previous service which would modify this judgment.'

Mar. 25, /91. (After action by the Committee) 'It would be too much to say that the question of your return is absolutely closed by this action.' (HEALTH ONLY is mentioned as the ground of hesitation.) 'I KNOW that your former associates WILL HEAR THIS NEWS WITH REGRET, for THEI LETTERS have shown how much they VALUE YOUR SERVICES and HOW GLADLY THEY WOULD SEE YOU AMONG THEM AGAIN.' 'I regret that your desires may not now be realised. . . and I ~~hope~~ wish that the way might be open for your resumption of labor in China.'

Now I remark that it seems to me surpassing strange, if any member of the Committee suggested that perhaps I was not wanted in ~~China~~the Mission, that THOSE LETTERS from the brethren were not read to the Committee. They should have proved sufficient to settle the minds of the Committee. This certainly did not lead me to surmise that there was an ulterior reason for refusing my application, and I wrote in relply an urgent letter th the effect that the questio should be, not how sick I was when I came home, but how well I then was and if there was reasonable assurance of permanence of health. And if I offered to go to Minneapolis or even to Chicago at my own expense for carfares to be thoroughly examined by any doctor the Sec. might arrange for.

Apr. 4. /91. 'Your letter makes a strong impression on my mind; and leads me to hope that the way may certainly open for your resumption of work in China.'

Apr. 8, /91. -See pages 1 and 2 of this letter. Not a word further have I received from the Committee or the Sec'y to this day, fully ELEVEN MONTHS. We have waited as patiently as we could. I hope my writing now will not

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From the Annual Report for 1890, page 79.

-'He and Mrs. Stimson have been released . . . not without the earnest hope that in the near future the service in Shansi so dear to their hearts may wisely be resumed.'

Above this is Mr. Atwood's name in the list of missionaries.

For my part I know of no reason why with the practice of ordinary christian forbearance and charity any two men who are fit to be ministers of the gospel cannot work together in the same mission or even if by choice they may not associate in the same station. Before Mr. Atwood had, so far as I know and thought of leaving the mission I proposed in mission meeting that we organize a new station at Fen-chou Fu, and each station be conducted under the methods preferred by its members and I promised that for my part I would treat the plans and requests of Taiku station in our mission meetings with the same charity, courtesy, and fairness, that we would ask of them for our own station. Mr. Thompson was then of a mind with Mr. Atwood, and Mr. Clapp was supposed to hold to conservative methods, and so was I. But Mr. Atwood left us. It was necessary that I go on with plans for Fen-chou Fu alone until Mr. Price should arrive. After some months letters to others were spoken of in which Mr. Atwood regretted his move and expressed the feeling that he belonged in Shansi, that his life-work was intended for that field, and that he felt sorry about it. In the latter part of 1888 I signed an invitation which was unanimous for Mr. Atwood to return. I was not especially jubilant, for I felt that it had been hard to get along pleasantly. However Mr. At-looked at our relations, it seemed to me that for a long time I had been criticized and opposed in every best endeavor both for work and for peace. But we confidently expected that Mr. Atwood would be returned. I wrote to Sec. Smith and to friends in the N. C. Mission favoring his return. Copies of these letters are at hand As will be seen from the extracts above others did not suppose that the coming back of one of us was to shut the other out or be a stumbling block to desire. After reading Sec. Smith's last letter it seemed to me that if Mr. Atwood's return was conditioned on my rejection, I had been treated in a very unfair manner, in this at least, that the fact had not been written to me. In all these months I have refused to act on the advice of friends and send for my books which I have so much needed in my work, and everywhere I had expressed the hope of recovery and returning to the work in Shansi, and this hope had constant spur as you have seen both from the mission and from the Secretary of the Board. I had

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Letter from Mr. Atwood.

Fen Cho Fu Aug. 1st '91.

Rev. M. L. Stimson, Hope N. D.

My dear Mr. Stimson: Your letter of Apr. 14th written from Hope N.D., reached me by the last courier but one. I cannot but sympathize with you in your disappointment and delay in carrying out of plans for returning to Shansi. Still I hope that the appreciation of your work in the home field which I am glad to see from the home papers will be in some measure a compensation for your disappointment at present delay and that ultimately the way may ~~open for your r~~ open before you according to your desire.

I sent your letter on its way around the mission. But as you are aware at this season of the year couriers are not always a certain quantity and at the best it will require some time before the mission can be got together as the Clapps are at the coast, and action taken according to Sec. Smith's ~~desire.~~ request. I do not think there is any one in the mission who would oppose your return to Shansi and if the Prud. Com. sees its way clear to return you we should heartily welcome you to Fen Cho Fu to identify yourself in the work here again. I find it a little awkward to maintain my own identity and yours too. I am often accosted as Mien Hsien Seng on the streets.

'We have a dispensary' etc.

'The general outlook is very hopeful' etc.

With kindest remembrances to Mrs. Stimson I am

Yours most cordially,

(signed) I. J. Atwood.

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In conclusion let me say that I have continued to expect a favorable reply from your Committee; that I have kept my path open that I might return at short notice; that I have reached quite nearly to the limit of my patience and that circumstances will soon require, if we remain much longer in this country, expenditures for the comfort of my family, which later will make a return to China an unreasonable sacrifice.

I formally apply for the last time now and if my request is not granted will you not in christian kindness have the exact and truthful reasons stated to me. If there are accusations or prejudicial statements from members of the mission, why may I not first be shown them and allowed a chance to reply to them as was done in Dr. Osborne's case. Treated as I have been in this matter I still dislike to feel that our Board- a great religious corporation - has no soul. And after reading the above extracts of correspondence it seems to me that you must be astonished at the course into which the matter has fallen I depend upon you and your associates to see to it that courteous and fair attention is given to my case. At the same time I also write a letter to Sec. Smith with the definite request that it be read to entire to the Prudential Committee. Copies of this I also send to Rev. Dr. A. H. Plumb and Hon. Joseph S. Ropes.

With thanks for the careful reading of this letter, and with an hearty desire to serve the Lord in the gospel of peace and salvation among the Chinese.

I am very respectfully yours,

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Rec'd Mar 1 1925

Amenia, N. D., Mar. 18th, 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.
Sec. Am. Board.

My dear Dr. Smith: I delayed my letters two weeks in the hope that I might hear from you more favorably than I have this morning. Your letter of the 10th, is postmarked the 12th and was sent to Hope and returned from there on the 18th.

As we have a houseful of friends coming here tonight I am obliged to reply briefly and will try to condense.

1. The extracts already sent are as full in expression as any others I might have made.

2. Mr. Atwood's letter to me is so christian and cordial in its spirit that it cannot be charitably supposed that he could have written you less kindly.

3. It is not reasonable that a small minority should thwart "the hearty and earnest desire" of the majority, without giving clear and satisfactory reasons beyond the fact of personal dislike.

4. The utterances of other members of the mission, as given on the last page of my recent letters to Dr. Thompson et al., one of which is from a member of the mission thoroughly conversant with the history of the mission and its troubles, and also Mr. Price's expressions to you, suggest that the opposition is not so truly a matter of "conscience" or even so much in accord with ~~of~~ christian charity as it ought to be.

5. So far as Mr. Clapp may be concerned, ~~then~~ if his reasons as given you are neither 'full' nor 'frank', it is not because of any considerateness toward me or because to do otherwise would have prejudiced me in the eyes of the Board.

6. It is not reasonable to refuse to send a man back to his mission because of possible friction with a minority unless there is ground to believe that unusual unhappiness will result therefrom, or you ~~wish to~~ condemn the man as of a frictional disposition. The first is not true. Do you mean to do the latter?

7. You write that "the sentiment of the great majority of these letters is altogether in favor of our return." That one or two object for reasons neither frankly or fully stated is not a just reason for shutting a man and wife off so suddenly from a life work in which they have done a "self-denying and laborious pioneer work" (Report , 1889,) and in which as you say in this letter, they "have the power to render an admirable service." I may say it is preposterous . Nor is it the precedent established by the Board. For instance Dr. Osborne was returned when there was a measure of opposition which was both frankly and fully explained.

After such a letter from Mr. [illegible] from [illegible] the mission with [illegible] and suggest-ede and [illegible] Clapp. It seems inexplicable that there is [illegible]

8. The course already pursued toward us we have probably criticised as much as we ought to do. Were we surprised at your course, so were others. Mr. Clapp as much as our best friends was astonished that you should so refer our case for the judgment of the mission. If the Committee wished to stir up dying embers the method was excellent. But we think you meant it somehow for the best. It ought to be undone. The friction now existing will be quickest allayed by sending us back pledged as we have offered. If either Mr. Clapp or Mr. Atwood do not wish to live in the same station with us they do not have to. The Mission has desired for a long time to start a third station. We began Fen-chou Fu and came home from there. Mr. Atwood is there. We will claim neither Fen-chow fu or anything else beyond the opportunity to carry out our life consecration, and use the language and the experience already gained at no small cost and self-denial

9. The matter will of course go before the Committee now. We hope to be better satisfied. Every one to whom I have shown the extracts from correspondence and Mr. Atwood's letter say that they feel that I have a strong case. I feel so. The evidence and the argument are strong enough as presented. We can certainly depend upon the persuasions of yourself, a trusted adviser of the Committee. (and one whose present expressions of love and esteem support the testimony of your previous letters,) and upon the letters we sent a## week ago, with our definite pledge, to carry the day for us. and secure our return.

10. Mrs. Stimson and I wish that, if we are permitted to return, our pledge be given to the mission as we have given it to you, and that every allusion we have necessarily made to any brother of a nature not to please them be withheld. We will go putting the past behind and looking forward. But we suppose that the last year we spent on the field was as pleasant a one as the mission ever had or will have .except that there are more of them now.

Your letter having been despatched before you received ours, we can sign ourselves more cordially than before.

With thanks for your continued good esteem.

Sincerely yours,

M. L. Stimson

I exceedingly regret that I am unable to visit Boston and meet the Committee personally.

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Sincerely yours,

M. L. Stimson

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ally.

Stimson, Mar. 15, 1892
Filed, March 24

HOPE, N. D., March 31, 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D., Sec. etc.,

My dear Sir: I hope I am still a christian. But if I could easily bring myself to feel that the decision of the Prud. Com. as transmitted by you under date of 25th ult. is really the will of God I fear I w'd seem to be in sinful rebellion. But I do not feel that either is true. I have no reason to feel other than thankful to you for the evident kindness and regret in your letter, though I do not think sadder news ever came to me in a letter. But I am cheered a bit by the reflection that it is not news of actual death. The Com. and myself I trust will survive in the Providence of God a good number of useful years yet. to be numbered. "While there is life," etc. Your letter remarks " It would be too ~~much to say that the question of your return to the mission is absolute~~ much to say that the question of your return to the mission is absolutely closed by this action of the P- C-." If the question is not closed then it is open and I may still have the attention of the Committee.

I can easily enough see how the experience of the Board, in ~~re~~ returning other families who have soon come home again, acts as a caution in regard to probably repeating the costly experiment. Let me say that I would not ask to be sent back if I was thinking myself only better of my disease. I wish to be understood not as simply "improved in health," but as I am firmly convinced "recovered of my former disease" and in as good apparent health as when Dr. Noble, who had more to do with me than any other physician had done for years previous, recommended me to the Board as the healthiest and strongest man in Oberlin. I am strong as can be now and so far as a man can tell by his feelings in royal good health. I believe Dr. McBurney, in whose ability and judgement the Committee will worthily confide- they can find out his professional standing in New York City- succeeded, as he was confident of doing, in removing the tendency in me toward bilious complaints. This is certain that in this regard my health is better than when a student in Oberlin I suffered frequently with bilious attacks as I had done from boyhood but not realizing, nor did my friends, that they might develop into acute disease or were likely to become of a severer chronic form. I doubt if I thought enough of the matter to mention it in my health report when first applying. So I may justly insist that my health is more "certain" than when I first was accepted. I object to the judgement that my "state of health in point of prudence really requires that I should turn my thoughts permanently to work in this country. It is my state of health, that in view of more than was in view ten years ago, viz my acquaintance with the language, people, experience in the work, and similar considerations, ~~that~~ makes it, more now than then, my imperative duty as well as privilege and desire to go to the foreign work. The Com. has no assurance of any persons health going to such a climate. They have a greater ground of assurance for me than they had ten years ago from the fact of my release from symptoms present with me then, from my better knowledge of how to manage to maintain my present health for a man can not go through such a seige without learning something of value. Now of the other point of my ill health. The spring before I was 11 yrs old I was sick almost to death with an inflammation of the bowels. Twice in the next few years I had recurrence of the trouble. From that time to this I have carried a little sac at the appendix of the bowels where was the seat of that inflammation. Less and less as the years went on did I suffer~~ing and~~ inconvenience from it. Three years ago in connection with my bilious trouble it became tender and painful. At New York the first medical examination discovered this sac, Dr. Bangs was much concerned and handed me over to the care of Dr. McBurney who is a specialist Surgeon operating frequently upon that trouble. He examined it several times with growing astonishment that it was so dormant. He said that it was a wonder I lived through it in 1868. He studied my case carefully and came to the conclusion that an operation would be foolish and that Dr. B. was in too much haste when he thought that was the seat of my trouble. He agreed in his diagnosis with Dr. Edwards in Shansi, Dr. Elliot of Boston and others that I had suffered from Bile-gravel, and that this old spot was made tender by the acrid bilious matter. He was of the opinion that I might never suffer from the sac more than I had done.

There is less probable danger from it than there would be from a rupture. But if danger comes in the form of severe injury arousing acute inflammation my life would doubtless go quickly. But that is only one chance in ~~than~~ 10 000. When it comes I may as well be in China as in anyother than the largest cities of America. Only an experienced Surgeon would dare perform the operation. As I wrote before this is no more tender today than it was all the years before I went to China.

Now I wish to insist that my case should be dealt with on the basis of present facts and not on those of a year ago. If the Committee want a new and thorough medical exam. I will go to Minneapolis or if necessary to Chicago and submit to the opinion of any Physician or Surgeon who may be recommended to them by their advisers in either city, they to settle the doctors bill and my necessary expenses except that I offer to pay my traveling expenses to and from.

There is , I feel sure no other question but this of health. The Committee through yourself has expressed its confidence in my character and devotion and success in the work. I have also the valued esteem of my brethren. A year ago you gave me what you styled a "temporary release from the Board," and (in the Annual Report,) "with the earnest hope that in the near future" we might resume our connection. You have allowed Mr. Sprague to return to his Mission; a letter from O. speaks of a young man and his affianced as under appointment to Shansi and going in the autumn. Finances are low but need not hinder an older man from going back to the work in which he has successfully engaged. I ask that a decision in my case reasonable to the facts of today be made, and if that on advice of competent authority be adverse I will bow to the will of Him whom in all my life I wish to serve, and as quietly as I can submit to a keen disappointment and address myself as faithfully as I can to what my hands find to do in His name.

I have hardly alluded to my wife; she shares with me in all I have written willing as I am at a sacrifice large as compared with our resources to turn our faces to the land we love, whose people are dear to us and where we are abundantly content at the end of our labor to be entombed. Our hearts are there; we consecrated them to that field

I would not trouble the Committee a second time if I did not feel that injustice to the facts had been unintentionally done. I did not write so forcibly about them I fear as I ought to have done, but I did not dream that I was so ineffectually presenting them that without further inquiry the Com. could so readily refuse my offer. And in writing again and aattempting particularly to emphasize what does not seem to have had its proper weight as I judge from the terms of your letter I hope that I shall not seem simply to be importuning for a ~~request~~ favour. I can better far in a worldly sense, AFFORD to remain in the work here than to go to China. But I consider all that possibly I may gain here as nothing compared with the greater privilege of preaching the riches of divine grace to the millions of endarkened souls in China.

I can say nothing more.

Believe me ever faithfully the Board's own for any service
I can render,

Yours truly,

M. L. Stimson

Thomson.

Hope, N. W. Mch 31/91.

Rec'd Apr. 4. 1891.

James B. Thompson
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SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

FENCHO FU, Shansi, China, FEB. 5TH, 1890.

REV. JUDSON SMITH, D.D.,
SEC. AM. BOARD,
BOSTON, U.S.A.

DEAR DOCTOR SMITH,—

WE HELD OUR AN. MEETING LAST WEEK AND OUR JOY WAS MINGLED WITH A GREAT SORROW. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT NOTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO US HAS BEEN QUITE SO DISCOURAGING AS THE NECESSITY THAT IS LAID UPON US OF LETTING BROTHER F.M. PRICE GO HOME THIS YEAR, AND YET NOTHING IN OUR HISTORY HAS APPEARED TO BE SO STRICTLY PROVIDENTIAL. IT IS A GREAT BLOW TO US AND A SET-BACK TO THE WORK. I HEAR, TOO, THAT MR. STIMSON IS NOT LIKELY TO RETURN, AND BESIDES, MR. CLAPP IS CONSTANTLY IN A PRECARIOUS STATE OF HEALTH. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I HOPE AND PRAY THAT MR. ATWOOD MAY BE INDUCED TO REJOIN US IN THE FALL. HIS COMING AT THIS TIME WOULD HELP US GREATLY.

THE NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES BEING OVER, I HOPE TO-MORROW TO RECOMMENCE VISITING THE VILLAGES AND TO KEEP IT UP UNTIL THE HOT SUMMER WEATHER SETS IN. I PRAY THAT THIS YEAR MAY WITNESS SOMETHING SUBSTANTIAL IN THE WAY OF RESULTS. IT IS CHEERING TO HEAR OF THE GOOD WORK THAT IS GOING ON AT PAOTING FU, WHERE THE PATIENT LABORS OF THE PAST ARE AT LAST BEARING CONSIDERABLE FRUIT. IN DUE TIME WE TOO SHALL REAP, IF WE FAINT NOT.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

J. B. Thompson

Rec'd Apr. 11
[illegible] for [illegible] 2, 1890

Fen Chou fu Feb. 5, 1890.

Rec'd Apr. 11.

FENCHO FU, SHANSI, MARCH 31, 1890.

REV. JUDSON SMITH, D.D.,
SEC. AM. BOARD,
BOSTON, U.S.A.

DEAR DOCTOR SMITH,—

I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEPTION OF YOUR FAVOR OF DEC. 20, INFORMING US OF THE PROBABILITY OF OTHER RECRUITS JOINING OUR MISSION DURING THE COMING FALL. I TRUST THE BOARD MAY BE ABLE TO SEND OUT ONE FAMILY AT THE VERY LEAST EVERY YEAR AS THIS WILL BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ENABLE US TO PROPERLY MAN THE TWO STATIONS WE NOW OCCUPY. THE DEPARTURE OF MR. F. M. PRICE AND FAMILY AT THIS TIME GIVES US A SET-BACK FROM WH. WE CAN SCARCELY HOPE TO RECOVER WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO, UNLESS MR. STIMSON AND FAMILY CAN REJOIN US, IN GOOD HEALTH, IN THE FALL OR UNLESS MR. ATWOOD SHD. RETURN TO SHANS STILL WE ARE NOT DISCOURAGED, FOR WE BELIEVE THAT THE LORD IS WITH US TO HELP US. IN THE CASE OF BRO. PRICE, I FEEL THAT PRAYER AND SYMPATHY ARE NEEDED MORE FOR HIM AND MRS. PRICE THAN FOR US; FOR IT IS INDEED A VERY GREAT ~~TO~~ DISAPPOINTMENT TO THEM THAT HAVING BEEN PERMITTED TO SHARE IN OUR TRIALS THEY ARE NOT ALSO PERMITTED TO SHARE I THE TRIUMPHS THAT ARE SOON TO COME.

THE WORK IS GROWING MORE AND MORE INTERESTING AS THE MONTHS G BY. THE SUNDAY AUDIENCES ARE LARGE AND GROWING, AND ALL WHO COME PAY VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE PREACHING. WE HAVE INTRODUCED A "BABY" ORGAN WH. IS PROVING TO BE EXCEEDINGLY HELPFUL. MRS. DAVIS PLAYS THE ORGAN, BESIDES HELPING IN VARIOUS OTHER WAYS. SHE IS COURAGEOUSLY

TAKING UP THE WORK AMONG THE WOMEN, AND ALREADY QUITE A NUMBER OF THE LATTER COME IN TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS. THIS I CONSIDER A VERY HOPEFUL SIGN.

WE DECIDED EARLY THIS YEAR THAT WE OUGHT TO HAVE A CHAPEL ON THE GREAT STREET AND I HAVE LATELY SUCCEEDED IN SECURING SUCH A PLACE — A FINE LARGE STORE AT A RENTAL OF ABOUT $1.25 A MONTH. IT IS ADMIRABLY ADAPTED TO OUR PURPOSE, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ACTION IN OPENING IT AS A ST. CHAPEL IS A WISE ONE. IT HAS BEEN OPENED LESS THAN A MONTH AND THE DAILY ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN GOOD. WE RENTED THE STORE THROU A FRIENDLY CHINESE GENTLEMAN. THIS GENTLEMAN TOLD THE PROPRIETOR IT WAS A FRIEND WHO WANTED THE PLACE, BUT WHEN THE FRIEND TURNED OUT TO BE A FOREIGNER, IT OCCASIONED QUITE A STIR AMONG THE NEIGHBORS. SOME OF THEM SAID, "WE DO NOT WANT THESE FOREIGNERS ON OUR GREAT ST. A FEW YEARS AGO, A FOREIGN ARMY CAPTURED PEKING, DRIVING OUR EMPEROR HIEN FENG INTO EXILE, WHERE HE DIED, AND NOW THESE PEOPLE WANT TO TAKE OUR CITY TOO. WE CANNOT ALLOW IT." OUR FRIEND ASSURED THEM THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO FEAR, AS THE AMERICANS HAD NO DESIGNS ON CHINA; BUT THEY REFUSED TO GIVE THEIR CONSENT UNTIL THEY SHD. FIND OUT THE WILL OF THE MAGISTRATE IN THE CASE. AS HIS HONOR DID NOT OFFER ANY OPPOSITION, THE PLACE WAS FINALLY RENTED TO US, AND WE NOW HAVE PEACEABLE POSSESSION THEREOF; APPARENTLY, WITH THE GOOD-WILL OF ALL THE PEOPLE ON THE ST.

QUITE A NUMBER OF OUR NEIGHBORS AND OTHERS ARE DESIROUS THAT WE SHD START A SCHOOL SIMILAR TO THE ONE AT T'AIKU, AND I TRUST THAT BY NEXT YEAR THE WAY MAY BE OPENED FOR US TO DO SO. IF WE WERE READY, WE COULD OPEN WITH TWELVE OR MORE PUPILS IMMEDIATELY, AND THIS WOULD

CERTAINLY BE A GOOD BEGINNING. THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT IT IS THAT THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN ARE ALSO PERFECTLY WILLING TO HAVE THEM TAUGHT THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE. THE WORK THAT IS DONE IN SUCH SCHOOLS, WHEN FOLLOWED BY A SYSTEMATIC VISITATION OF THE HOMES, MUST BE PRODUCTIVE OF MUCH FRUIT. A HOPEFUL BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE AT T'AIKU. THE BOYS IN THE SCHOOL THERE ARE GETTING A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE, AND SOME OF THEM HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO FOLLOW CHRIST. I HAD TO GO TO T'AIKU FOR SILVER LAST WEEK AND I FELT QUITE CHEERED BY WHAT I SAW THERE. AT THE CHINESE PRAYER-MEETING, SOME FIVE OR SIX ENGAGED, VOLUNTARILY, IN PRAYER. IT WAS LIKE ATTENDING A PRAYER-MEETING IN AMERICA. I FOUND MR. AND MRS. CLAPP FULL OF WORK, WHILE DR. AND MRS. GOLDSBURY WERE WORKING HARD AT THE CHINESE LANGUAGE, AND THEY ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS, NOTWITHSTANDING THAT DR. G. GIVES ONE OR TWO DAYS A WEEK TO DISPENSARY WORK.

Wen Shui = [illegible]

"WE HAVE SOME THOUGHT OF OCCUPYING WÊN SHUI AS A THIRD STATION. I WENT THERE ABOUT A MONTH SINCE TO LOOK UP SOME PROPERTY. THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY RECEIVED ME PLEASANTLY; AND ALL WHO KNEW OF IT APPEARED PLEASED TO HAVE US THINK OF COMING AMONG THEM. I WAS OFFERED A CHOICE OF SIX HOUSES, FIVE OF THEM BEING ON THE GREAT ST., BUT I THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO CLOSE A BARGAIN FOR A PLACE UNTIL WE CAN KNOW MORE CERTAINLY JUST WHAT OUR AVAILABLE WORKING FORCE IS TO BE NEXT WINTER. I WAS GRATIFIED AT THE CONFIDENCE OF THE INHABITANTS DURING THIS VISIT, AND ESPECIALLY OF THE CHRILDREN. THE LATTER SEEMED GLAD TO HAVE ME TALK TO THEM AND THEY QUITE READY TO HEAR A SIMPLE GOSPEL STORY. ONE MAN WHO BOUGHT A NEW TESTAMENT I AFTERWARDS MET READING IT AS HE SLOWLY

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WALKED TOWARDS HIS HOME . I ALSO MET TWO MEN THERE WHO HAD HEARD THE GOSPEL BEFORE AT OTHER STATIONS OF OUR BOARD, ONE AT KALKAN, THE OTHER AT PAOTING FU.

IT IS NOT EASY FOR US FOREIGNERS TO ADOPT THE ''CHINESE IDEA'' IN EVERY THING. ¶IN SOME INSTANCES IT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE. WHEN I WENT TO WÊN SHUI RECENTLY, ON REACHING THE INN I SENT ONE OF THE CLERKS TO BUY SOME CHINESE CAKES, AND HE FAITHFULLY PERFORMED THE ERRAND, COMING BACK WITH THE CAKES CAREFULLY TIED UP IN HIS HANDKERCHIEF. MY CARTER HAD QUITE R A RICH SUPPER THAT EVENING. ¶IT MAY SAFELY BE SAID THAT HIS HANDKERCHIEF IS BY FAR THE MOST USEFUL ARTICLE THAT THE AVERAGE CHINAMAN CARRIES ABOUT HIS PERSON . IT IS APPLIED TO VARIOUS PURPOSES THAT OF WRAPPING UP FOOD BEING ~~PERHAPS~~ CERTAINLY A VERY COMMON ONE. ¶NOT LONG SINCE, A POOR TEACHER CALLED ON ME AND WHEN I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD BEEN TO DINNER, HE REPLIED, ''NO, BUT I AM JUST GOING TO EAT IT,'' AND THEREUPON HE PULLED OUT HIS HANDKERCHIEF WH., WHEN UNFOLDED, DISPLAYED A PIECE OF MEAT OF A PECULIAR COLOR. '' WHAT SORT OF MEAT IS THAT, '' I INQUIRED. ''DONKEY-MEAT,'' HE REPLIED. ''WHAT,'' I SAID, ''DO THE PEOPLE OF YOUR HONORABLE COUNTRY EAT DONKEY-MEAT? '' ''YES,'' HE REPLIED ''WE CONSIDER IT VERY GOOD EATING.'' '' AND HORSE AND MULE?'' ''YES!'' ''AND CAT?'' ''YES, BUT WE CONSIDER DONKEY-MEAT THE BEST OF ALL.''

¶WE MISSIONARIES ARE ACCUSED OF HARPING A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THE OPIUM BUSINESS, BUT SURELY WE HAVE REASON TO. ¶QUITE A PATHETIC CASE CAME UNDER MY NOTICE RECENTLY. ¶IT WAS THAT OF THE CARTER WHO BROUGHT ME HOME FROM WÊN SHUI. I WENT TO LOOK FOR HIM AT THE HALF-WAY INN AND FOUND HIM—IN A ROOM SMOKING OPIUM. ''AH,'' SAID I, ''THIS IS WHAT YOU

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ARE DOING IS IT?'' ''ALAS, TEACHER,'' HE SAID, ''THERE IS NO HELP FOR IT. THIS HABIT HAS TAKEN HOLD OF ME AND I CANNOT BREAK IT OFF. I HAVE REDUCED THE DOSE TO ONE-HALF, BUT I CANNOT LEAVE IT OFF ALTOGETHER. IF I HAD SOME MEDICINE TO TAKE AT HOME I COULD PERHAPS BREAK IT OFF, BUT NOT OTHERWISE. I CANNOT GO TO A REFUGE, BECAUSE THERE ARE A THOUSAND MEN READY TO TAKE MY PLACE AS A CARTER, THUS THROWING ME OUT OF EMPLOYMENT. ALAS! ALAS!'' WE MEET SUCH CASES BY THE SCORE, AND THEY ARE TRULY AFFECTING.

I INTEND STARTING THE DAY AFTER TO-MORROW ON ANOTHER TWO WEEKS' TOUR IN WÊN SHUI COUNTY. IN THE EARNEST HOPE THAT THIS YEAR MAY YET PROVE TO BE ONE OF GREAT BLESSING ON OUR WORK,

I AM,

VERY RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

Jas. B. Thompson

Fencho-fu, March 31, 1890
Filed May 31

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

FENCHO FU, *Shansi, China,* JULY 11TH, 1890.

REV. JUDSON SMITH, D.D.,
SEC. AM. BOARD,
BOSTON, U.S.A.

DEAR DOCTOR SMITH,—

WITHIN A FEW DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF MY LAST LETTER TO YOU, I DEVELOPED A VERY SORE LEG, WH. UP TO THE PRESENT TIME HAS QUITE BAFFLED THE DOCTOR'S SKILL TO CURE. IT IS THE SAME AFFLICTION WHEREWITH THE VENERABLE ARABIAN PATRIARCH WAS ANCIENTLY AFFLICTED; ONLY MINE IS MORE CIRCUMSCRIBED THAN HIS WAS. IT CAME ON IN ITS MORE VIOLENT FORM WHILE I WAS ON A VISIT TO WÊN SHUI. I EARNESTLY HOPE IT MAY SOON GET WELL SO THAT I MAY GO TO WÊN SHUI AND RENT PROPERTY THERE; WITH A VIEW TO OCCUPYING THAT STATION THE COMING FALL. NOW THAT MR. ATWOOD IS COMING BACK, WE FEEL ABLE TO EXTEND OUR BORDERS A LITTLE. IT IS TO BE REGRETTED THAT MR. STIMSON CANNOT COME BACK, AS HIS READY KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE WD. BE OF IMMENSE HELP AT THIS STAGE OF THE WORK.

THE CONGREGATIONS WERE VERY GOOD HERE UNTIL THE MONTH OF JUNE, AND EVEN NOW, IN THE HOTTEST WEATHER, WE GET A FEW IN TO THE SERVICES. I HAD SOME NOTICES OF THE WORSHIP PRINTED, WH. I CIRCULATE IN THE CITY EVERY WEEK, WITH THE RESULT JUST INDICATED.

ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, MR. AND MRS. DAVIS AND I VISITED MRS. YEH—THE WOMAN BAPTIZED BY MR. STIMSON THE SUNDAY BEFORE HE LEFT FOR THE U.S. SHE LIVES AT A VILLAGE 15 MILES S.W. OF US; THE RIDE UP AND DOWN WAS, I THINK, THE MOST TRYING I EVER EXPERIENCED. BESIDES

THE HARD ~~ROAD~~ ROAD, THE QUANTITY OF DUST WE HAD TO CONTEND WITH THAT DAY WAS SOMETHING UNUSUAL EVEN FOR SHANSI. AS A CONSEQUENCE, IT TOOK US A FULL WEEK TO GET OVER THE EFFECTS OF THAT CART RIDE. STILL WE FELT ABUNDANTLY REWARDED FOR GOING DOWN. WE HAD NO TROUBLE TO FIND THE WOMAN AS EVERY ONE IN THE VILLAGE KNEW OF HER AS A CHRISTIAN. SHE HAS FREQUENTLY TOLD THEM ABOUT THE DOCTRINE, AND SHE HAS ENDEAVORED FAITHFULLY TO INSTRUCT HER OWN CHILDREN. WHILE WE WERE THERE, MANY OF THE NEIGHBORS CAME IN AND THUS I WAS AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO THEM OF THE WAY OF SALVATION. I COULD NOT BUT FEEL THAT THAT POOR WOMAN IS ONE OF THE ''KING'S DAUGHTERS.'' THERE IS NOT THE LEAST SIGN OF IDOLATRY ABOUT THE HOUSE.

IT IS HARD FOR US—EVEN FOR THE MISSIONARIES ON THE FIELD—TO REALIZE WHAT A TREMENDOUS STEP A CHINAMAN TAKES WHEN HE BECOMES A XN., AND HOW MUCH PERSECUTION HE MUST ENDURE. I WAS RECENTLY REMINDED OF THIS WHEN TWO MEN INTIMATED THEIR DESIRE TO ENTER THE CH. THEY SAID THEY FULLY BELIEVED THE DOCTRINE AND HAD ABANDONED IDOL WORSHIP, BUT THEY COULD NOT DESTROY BE THEIR IDOLS, BECAUSE WHEN MR. HSÜ DID THIS IT AROUSED A STORM OF OPPOSITION TO HIM IN THE CITY THAT HAD NOT YET SUBSIDED. WE ARE THUS AGAIN REMINDED HOW MUCH THESE NATIVE XNS NEED OUR SYMPATHY AND OUR PRAYERS.

MR. C. W. PRICE AND FAMILY ARE SPENDING THE SUMMER IN THE CITY.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

J. B. Thompson

July 11, '90.

Rec'd Oct. 6.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

FENCHO FU, Shansi, China, SEPT. 3D, 1890.

REV. JUDSON SMITH, D.D.,
SEC. AM. BOARD,
BOSTON, MASS.

DEAR DOCTOR SMITH,-

I AM THANKFUL TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT MY LIMB IS GRADUALLY GETTING BETTER. I AM ABLE TO WALK NOW WITHOUT PAIN, AND I HOPE TO FIND MYSELF QUITE WELL SOON. I THINK NOW THE TROUBLE IS LOCALIZED ECZEMA. OWING TO THE BAD STATE OF THE ROADS, I AM STILL UNABLE TO GET TO LIMAN TO SEE THE DOCTOR.

THE SUNDAY SERVICES ARE WELL ATTENDED AGAIN NOW. OF LATE I HAVE DISTRIBUTED A GREAT MANY TRACTS, CHIEFLY AT A FAIR IN THE CITY. THE COMING OF MR. ATWOOD WILL GIVE A GREAT IMPETUS TO THE WORK IN THIS VICINITY. IT HAS BEEN RATHER UNFORTUNATE THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO STAY IN THE MISSION MORE THAN LONG ENOUGH TO GET A LITTLE ACQUAINTED WITH THE WORK AND THE PEOPLE. A CHINESE GENTLEMAN SAID TO ME THE OTHER DAY, "YOU FOREIGNERS ARE MAKING A GREAT MISTAKE. AS SOON AS YOU BEGIN TO GET A LITTLE ACQUAINTED WITH US, YOU PULL UP STAKES AND MAKE FOR HOME." IN CONSEQUENCE OF THIS CONSTANT CHANGING OF OUR FORCE, I AM MORE AND MORE CONVINCED THAT THE HISTORY OF MOST OTHER MISSIONS WILL HAVE TO BE REPEATED IN SHANSI-THAT IS, WE MUST WAIT YET SOME YEARS BEFORE ABUNDANT RESULTS CAN BE GATHERED.

SOME TIME SINCE, I HAD A GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF THE CONTRAST IN SENTIMENT PRODUCED BY THE TEACHING OF THE "LIGHT OF ASIA" FROM THAT PRODUCED BY THE TEACHING OF THE "LIGHT OF THE WORLD." A CHINESE GEN-

TLEMAN WAS SITTING IN MY ROOM, WHEN HE OVERHEARD ONE OF THE BOYS KILLING A CHICKEN. "OH!" HE SAID, STARTING UP, "WE CHINESE NEVER THINK OF DOING THAT. WE CONSIDER IT WRONG TO KILL BIRDS OR ANIMALS KEPT ON THE PLACE." "YES; I AM AWARE OF IT," I REPLIED. "I KNOW YOU FEEL THAT WAY; IT IS BUDDHIST TEACHING. YOU ARE AFRAID TO KILL A CHICKEN, BUT YOU DO NOT CONSIDER IT WRONG TO KILL A GIRL-BABY." MY VISITOR APPEARED TO BE NON-PLUSSED FOR A MINUTE. THEN HE SAID, "THAT IS NOT DONE IN THIS SECTION OF THE COUNTRY." I REPLIED THAT A CASE HAD BUT RECENTLY COME UNDER MY NOTICE, AND THEN HE STATED THAT IT WAS QUITE COMMON FOR PARENTS TO DESTROY THEIR FEMALE INFANTS. THE GENTLEMAN WITH WHOM I HAD THIS CONVERSATION IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST SCHOLARS IN THE PROVINCE, AND THE MAN WHO ON THE FIRST AND THE FIFTEENTH OF EVERY CHINESE MONTH READS AND EXPOUNDS THE SACRED EDICT FOR THE EDIFICATION OF THE PEOPLE.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

J. B. Thompson

Shansi, Sep. 30. 1890.

Rec'd Nov. 8.

Fencho Fu, Shansi, China,
Dec. 2d, 1890.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sect'y of the A. B. C. F. M.,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith:-

Since my last letter to you, I have made several short tours, the state of my health being such that I cannot endure the native inns long at a time. I find that when my stomach is the least bit out of order, I cannot eat any native food whatever. It is certain that I, for one, could never "live as the Chinese do." Neither can any other foreigner. I have often heard the Chinese mention it as a proof of our high living that we eat rice. In fact, to live as the Chinese do wd. mean for us to go without all the comforts and many of the necessaries of life; and we shd. then be only trying to live as the poor people do after all; for the rich live quite extravagantly. I have often been into Chinese houses that were well supplied with costly furniture, tho, of course, the Chinese do not know what it is to enjoy the comfort of a good stove or a foreign bedstead. But then they do not know what it is to be clean, either. One often thinks what a blessing it wd. be to the world if these cities could be once thoroly cleansed. Even a few clean inns wd. be a blessing. It is enough to make one sigh for this when he sees the plates on wh. the native cakes are brought in at the inns. These plates are made of bamboo, will last for ages, and are never washed from generation to generation.

A short time ago, I went to Wên Shui, with a view to renting property there. I selected a suitable place and negotiations were proceeding favorably, when the middle-man suddenly dropped the matter. He wd. not explain at the time, but during a subsequent visit to the city I learned it was because the magistrate had issued private instructions forbidding any one to rent~~ing~~ his place to a foreigner. So there the affair rests at present, tho I hope to go again soon in order to appeal directly to the magistrate. The people of the place appear to be friendly enough, tho the city is under the jurisdiction of T'ai Yuan Fu; and it is well-known that the authorities at the latter place are somewhat hostile to foreigners.

Besides several trips to Wên Shui I have visited Chiao Ch'eng, and Chi TS'un, and 29 of the villages around those places; besides doing what I could in the city and the villages around us, this fall. Chiao Ch'eng is 40 miles N. of us. It is a large place with a rather small population. There appears to be a good deal of trade done there. A number of the villages wh. I visited, had never had the gospel preached in them before. The people were friendly and appeared to be glad to listen to the message. It was a real joy to work among them. One could not but realize, too, the magnitude of the task before us. Certain it is that if any one wants a large parish, he can find it on the foreign field. During this fall I have passed by many villages wh. it was impossible for me to visit, and This will be readily understood when I say there are 360 villages in this

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Besides several trips to Wên Shui I have visited Chiao Cheng, and Chi Ts'un, and 29 of the villages around those places, besides doing what I could in the city and the villages around us, this fall. Chiao Ch'êng is 40 miles N. of us. It is a large place with a rather small population. There appears to be a good deal of trade done there. A number of the villages wh. I visited, had never had the gospel preached in them before. The people were friendly and appeared to be glad to listen to the message. It was a real joy to work among them. One could not but realize, too, the magnitude of the task before us. Certain it is that if any one wants a large parish, he can find it on the foreign field. During this fall I have passed by many villages wh. it was impossible for me to visit, and this will be readily understood when I say there are 360 villages in this county alone. It is truly appalling to think of the spiritual destitution around us. We can but pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers, and let them stay a few years when they get here.

The Sabbath services are well attended by attentive audiences, tho none of those who come appear to be specially interested in the doctrine. I have given a few magic lantern shows with the assistance of Mr. Davis; who showed the pictures while I explained them. We are hoping to give exhibitions at intervals during the wihter, tho I have received intimation that if the audiences become large, the magistrate will be likely to forbid the people coming at all. We consequently deem it wise to invite only a few at a time.

The missionaries who came out last year are all doing well at the language. Mr. Price has commenced to visit the villages-an excellent way to get the spoken language.

We are thankful that Dr. Goldsbury is being raised up from his bed of sickness. We are thankful, too, that Dr. Atwood reached T'aiku in time to take charge of Dr. G. when the latter was at his lowest point. The grip made us a visit this fall, but all who were sick have been raised up again; with the exception of Mr. Clapp, who had but just been attacked when the courier left T'aiku last week. We hope soon to hear that he is well again.

Very respectfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

Frucho fu, Dec. 2 1890.

Rec'd Feb. 20, 1891.

Fencho Fu, Shansi, China,

Jan. 26th, 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Smith :-

Your favor of Oct. 23d reached me by a recent courier, and I am glad to learn from it that another family is to join us in the coming fall. I wish two families could come this year, as that would enable us the better to occupy another station. But we can do so as it is, and I am anxious that we should occupy Wên Shui immediately. It is my intention to ask to be definitely located there at our approaching annual meeting. I intend also to ask for a grant of $750 to purchase land and build a house; as we have decided that it is better to buy land and build right from the foundations than to try to repair old Chinese houses. I have learned during these five years of experience in China that it is wise economy for a person to take care of his health; and we can only do that by having dry houses to live in. I feel sure that the Pru. Com. will cheerfully make the above grant when asked to do so.

At my request, Dr. Atwood went with me to Wên Shui last week, to look over the field; and he has expressed himself as greatly pleased with it. He thinks the location is a healthful one. From the wall of the city, one gets a most inspiring view of the western mountains; the nearest of which, are only a short distance from the city. Besides all this, it is a good evangelizing center.

Fencho Fu, Dec. 2d 1890.

Fencho fu, Shansi, China.

Jan. 27th, 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Smith :-

Your favor of Oct. 2nd reached me by a recent courier, and I am glad to learn from it that another family is to join us in the coming fall. I wish two families could come this year, as that would enable us the better to occupy another station. But we can do so as it is, and I am anxious that we should occupy Wen Shui immediately. It is my intention to ask to be definitely located there at our approaching annual meeting. I intend also to ask for a grant of $750 to purchase land and build a house, as we have decided that it is better to buy land and build right from the foundations than to try to repair old Chinese houses. I have learned during these five years of experience in China that it is wise economy for a person to take care of his health, and we can only do that by having dry houses to live in. I feel sure that the Pru. Com. will cheerfully make the above grant when asked to do so.

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It seems to me that the outlook for the mission has never been quite so encouraging as it is at the present time. We are well constituted now, with no element of discord and no probability of any arising. Another special cause for gladness, as we look forward to the an. meeting, is, that there is no one thinking of taking the homeward track this year. All who are here want to stay. Personally, I have great hope of being able to complete at least ten years on the field before visiting America.

I am glad that the Pru. Com. will act cautiously in sending out Messrs. Price and Stimson again. If these brethren can come back in good health, and with the probability of being able to stay a few years, it will be delightful to have them rejoin us soon; but it is discouraging all round when one must pull up and make for home, after having spent only a year or so on the ground. It seemed a most discouraging circumstance last year when Mr. Price decided he must return to the U. S.

I have greatly enjoyed reading the report of the an. meeting at Minneapolis. It does seem as if all the friends of the Am. Board ought now to rally to its support. I have faith to believe that our churches in the U. S. will raise a million dollars for foreign missions alone within another year or two. The churches have a grand opportunity to do a great work.

I spent Christmas week at T'aiku, and a pleasant Christmas it was. Two magic lantern exhibitions were given for the benefit of the boys in the school and it was quite a pleasure to hear how readily the boys could explain events from the Old and New Testaments

as soon as they ~~latter~~ appeared on the screen. It certainly shows that the pupils in the school at T'aiku are being thoroughly instructed in scripture history.

An exhibition was given, also, for the instruction of officials in the magistrate's office. It was given at their own request, and some twenty or thirty officials--including the man next under the magistrate himself--came in a body and were thus for the first time brought within sound of the gospel. These gentlemen were so pleased with what they saw and heard that, at their request, on a subsequent evening, Mrs. Clapp and Miss Hewett gave an exhibition for the benefit of their families. It is hoped that the 'bread' thus 'cast upon the waters' will be found 'after many days.'

During the year recently closed, I visited upwards of fifty villages, besides making five tours to Wên Shui and one to Chiao Ch'êng-50 *li* north of Wên Shui. I trust that my health this year will be such as to allow me to keep steadily at the work. I plan to work the Wên Shui district and the villages to the north of Fên Chou fu exclusively this year. It is somewhat discouraging to find that the sowing time is still protracted; but I have faith to believe that the Spirit of God will eventually bless the labors that we are putting forth in Shansi. The promises are as bright as ever.

Faithfully Yours,

J. B. Thompson

Fen-chow-fu, Jan 26, 1891
Rec'd April 13

Fencho Fu, Shansi, China, March 21st, 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Smith :

At our recent an. meeting, a resolution was passed asking the Pru. Com. to appoint yourself or some one else to visit Shansi as soon as possible, and I was instructed to communicate this action to you. I do not remember the exact wording of the resolution, and I do not happen to have a copy by me, but I presume it will come under your notice in the report of the proceedings of the an. meeting. The tenor of it was, a call for an official visit as soon as possible.

It would be a great pleasure to us if you yourself could come to see this field but it must be said we have not much work to be examined into yet. It is to be hoped that a few years hence there will be something here in the line of results that it will gladden a Secretary's heart to see; but at present he would have a long and most tiresome journey only to see the spiritual barrenness of the land; tho it would also enable him to realize what a difficult field Shansi is. It is simply impossible for one who has not been here to fully comprehend what a task has been undertaken in the effort to evangelize this province. Besides, a visit from a Secretary would help to give us a new inspiration for work. I have written ~~thus~~ as above because I know the great toil such an inland journey must necessarily involve, and because I think such a visit as the one called for

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Rec'd April 13

besides being just as helpful then as it can be now, will find more to report, more to encourage, and more to rejoice over, two or three years later than it can at the present time.

We had a good an. meeting this year, and we are all feeling much cheered. I did not ask for a grant for Wên Shui, as I found there was quite an unwillingness to have me leave Fêncho Fu. Still, I intend to tour considerably in the direction of Wên Shui this year.

My general health appears to be quite good, tho my limb does not improve very much. In fact, I cannot see that it is any better than it was a year ago, in appearance, but it does not prevent me from getting about now as it did then. The two doctors have tried their utmost skill, thus far with no very encouraging result.

I am happy to be able to say that I have done very well at the language, too. I can talk and preach quite readily, besides having a good knowledge of the character. This is quite encouraging to me, and I hope to be able to put in four or five years of good, solid work before returning to U. S. Every additional year spent on the field ought to add to one's effectiveness.

It seems to me that Mr. F. M. Price's sickness is making him quite fanciful. I am surprised that a man who has been in Shansi could write the two articles I have read from his pen, one in the 'Independent,' the other in the 'Advance.'

Very faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

Fenchow-fu, March 21, 1891
Rec'd May 14

Fêncho Fu, Shansi, China,

Ap. 28th, 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,

Sec. Am. Board,

Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Smith,-

I greatly rejoice to hear that the Pru. Com. has made the the grant we asked for to enable us to enlarge the work at this station. Additional property was positively necessary here. Even with the new buildings, there will be no room for a boarding school.

Dr. Atwood is at present suffering from an affection of the throat. We tremble somewhat lest it should prove to be of the same nature as the disease which sent Mr. F. M. Price home. During the winter and spring, Dr. A. has been using a cave house for a dispensary, and I am afraid that that has had something to do with his present trouble. We must hope that he is not in a serious case.

My limb does not heal readily. A short time ago, I went to Wên Shui and Chiao Ch'eng, hoping to spend a month or six weeks in touring in the neighborhood of those places. I had been away about ten days, when my limb took an unusually bad turn, which virtually laid me up four days at the inn. An abscess formed directly over my right knee and was very painful. I came home as soon as I could and have been under regular medical treatment ever since. Today it feels quite easy again. I am convinced that the disease is due to arsenical poisoning, caused by red flannel underclothing. It is upwards of a year ~~n~~ since it first came on; and the cure seems to be

Fenchow-fu, March 2, 1891

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The audiences are good on Sundays, and there are four or five regular attendants, two or three of whom profess to be ~~regu-~~ inquirers. Dr. Atwood has had an opium refuge for some time, and on Sundays he preaches to them and to the neighbors who come in; so that we have two ~~regular~~ preaching places in the city. Seeing that I am so much of an invalid, a short time ago, I, with the consent of the members of the station, made Mr. Ts'ui a regular preacher, and he is giving good satisfaction in this capacity.

1891. May 28. [illegible]
Rec'd [illegible] 30.

I am afraid the few Christians here are not very satisfactory, but at the same time we must be longsuffering in dealing with these poor people. We should not expect to see a flaming light where there has been so much and such dense heathen darkness.

I am hoping we may soon be able to start a school here,—a day school, I mean, for there is no room for a boarding school. We are deliberating as to the best disposition to be made of our forces, in the event of Mr. Stimson's return the ensuing fall.

I recently gave two magic lantern exhibitions, by request, to a magistrate's family.

With Christian regards,

Faithfully Yours,

J. B. Thompson

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With Christian regards,

Faithfully Yours,

J. B. Thompson

Fen Cho fu, Apr. 28, 1891.
Rec'd June 30.

Fencho Fu, Shansi, China,

May 5th, 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Smith : -

I am profoundly thankful to be able to state that a great change for the better has taken place in the condition of my limb since my letter of two weeks ago. When I wrote that letter, I was feeling considerably discouraged at finding that the disease wh. had fastened itself on me more than twelve months before still gave no sign of relaxing its hold. I have a different tale to tell now. Some time in the spring a member of the C.I.M. told me that his father had been afflicted in the same way and after every thing else had failed he obtained relief and permanent cure by means of Cuticura. I immediately ordered two lots, one from Boston, the other from Tientsin. The latter arrived last mail, and the very first application took away all the soreness and pain, and the limb is healing quite rapidly. Unfortunately, by a mistake, only one box of the ointment was sent in from Tientsin, and it will be six weeks before I can get another; but it is a great relief to know that there is something that can heal such a malady as mine. I am full of joy at the thought of soon being well again.

I am intending to go to T'aiku next week, to supply for Mr. Clapp while the latter goes to the coast. I expect to be gone a month or two.

Fencho Fu, Shansi, China,
May 5th, 1891.

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Dr. Atwood is busy getting his place ready. I am glad the Pru. Com. made the grant for buildings, as otherwise it would have been impossible to do anything like efficient work here. Dr. Atwood appears to be well again.

The prospect for the mission seems to be quite cheering. A few genuine converts now would be the means of bringing great good cheer to all interested in the Shansi Mission.

I earnestly hope the Board will soon be able to appoint a fourth Secretary, so as to leave one free now and again to visit the mission fields. I was not heartily in favor of inviting a Sec. to visit us this year, because I know the Secretaries are already overworked, and we shd. not seek to lay upon them more than they are able to bear. A journey from the coast into Shansi would be found to be exceedingly wearisome with little at this end to repay for the toil-excepting the great pleasure it would give us to meet a Secretary on the field. His presence and counsel would help us powerfully. But it is also desirable that a Sec. shd. be able to report something encouraging in the line of results after such a visit; or that he shd. at least find the mission well equipped for service.

Very Truly Yours,

J. B. Thompson

[illegible] Mar 2. 1881.
[illegible] 8 [illegible] 3.

Dr. Atwood is busy getting his place ready. I am glad the Pru. Com. made the grant for buildings, as otherwise it would have been impossible to do anything like efficient work here. Dr. Atwood appears to be well again.

The prospect for the mission seems to be quite cheering. A few genuine converts now would be the means of bringing great good cheer to all interested in the Shansi Mission.

I earnestly hope the Board will soon be able to appoint a fourth Secretary, so as to leave one free now and again to visit the mission fields. I was not heartily in favor of inviting a Sec. to visit us this year, because I know the Secretaries are already overworked, and we shd. not seek to lay upon them more than they are able to bear. A journey from the coast into Shansi would be found to be exceedingly wearisome with little at this end to repay for the toil-excepting the great pleasure it would give us to meet a Secretary on the field. His presence and counsel would help us powerfully. But it is also desirable that a Sec. shd. be able to report something encouraging in the line of results after such a visit; or that he shd. at least find the mission well equipped for service.

Very Truly Yours,

J. B. Thompson

Taiku Fu, May 5, 1891.
Rec'd July 23.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

T'aiku, Shansi, China, Sept. 3, 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith:—

I am at T'aiku again, having come to take a general oversight of things here until the return of Mr. & Mrs. Clapp.

Last week I rented a place at Jên Ts'un, about 45 li nearly E. of this city. There is a prosperous district in that neighborhood. The people are not ill-disposed towards foreigners. Owing to the powerful influence of our friend Mr. Liu, I was enabled to rent the grounds within two hours — wh. is probably the shortest time that has been ever spent in such a transaction in China.

Fenchow Fu, May 5, 1891.

If we had 350 taels we could buy the place right out and $2 or more would put it in a good state of repair.

The magistrate came around the other day and took down our names and the names of the courts in which we live. Hereafter, all new-comers must report themselves to him. This is in compliance with a recent imperial proclamation.

I am sorry there is some opposition to Mr. Stimson's return to the mission. He and Mrs. S. were hard working missionaries. I have ascertained that the magistrate at T. C. Fu and many others thought quite highly of Mr. Stimson.

Faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Rec'd J. B. Thompson,
Taiku, Sept 8, 1891.
Ans'd Nov. 10. 1891.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

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T'ai Ku, Shansi, China, Sept. 11th, 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Doctor Smith:—

"It is said to be an ill wind that blows no body any good; and we have just had a new evidence that the saying is true.

"Owing to the troubles in the south of China, the Emperor has issued a proclamation for the protection of missionaries and government officials have been warned to see that the proclamation is rigidly observed. We were accordingly notified that the magistrate of this district intended to make us an official visit on Sept. 8th, at 5 o'clock a.m., but as his Honor went first to the Confucian Temple to worship, it passed to be 8 o'clock a.m. before he reached our compound."

MWG.

Goldsbury and I and our noble Chinese Christian friend, Mr. Liu — who seems to have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this — met the magistrate outside the great gate and escorted him to the reception room. On taking his seat, he informed us that he had come in compliance with the imperial proclamation and in order to assure us of his protection in the prosecution of our missionary duties." We gave him Mr. Clapp's card and informed him that Mr. Clapp was waiting at the coast to accompany Mr. & Mrs. Williams into Shansi. The visit lasted about a half-hour and it must be regarded as the most propitious event that has happened to us, as it gives the otherwise such offences as annoying visitors as would cause him to be punished. This puts us in a new and better light before the law-abiding people among whom we reside. We had nothing to fear before, but we are grateful that our legal standing has been thus publicly recognized. According to the democratic customs which obtain in China the people throng the court during the visit, and a [illegible] crowd remained outside in the street, where they waited until they saw his Honor re-enter his chair, and take his departure.

"The magistrate is about 30 years of age. He has a bright face, and is a fine example of a Chinese gentleman. Mr. Liu, of his own accord, explained to him that this was a Protesquarter Church, and pointed out a few of the essential differences between the two bodies. He said he did so because the Roman Catholic Church is founded upon a political organization, and he considered it important that the magistrate should understand that Protestants are free from foreign control. Mr. Lee also explained to him that we had rented a place at Jin Ts'uen and asked him to rebuke a few persons there who had been trying to stir up opposition. He then promised to do so & to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] "of [illegible], [illegible] [illegible]"

Faithfully yours
J. B. Thompson

Taiwan Sept. 11. 1891.
Rec'd Nov. 10. 1891.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts'un, Shansi, China, Dec. 4th, 1891

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith,--

When I last wrote to you I was still at T'aiku. I remained there until Mr. & Mrs. Clapp returned from the coast.

The boys in the school were highly delighted to have their teachers back again. They ran outside the south gate of the city to meet them.

I feel more and more that the school is doing a good work. One cannot help perceiving that the people are not as suspicious as they were, tho they are not very friendly even now. Two circumstances recently occurred which must have put the confidence of the people of T'aiku to somewhat of a test. One day a man was found dead on the wall of the city, with a little bottle of foreign medicine and one of Dr. Goldsbury's bills in his hand. It was found that he had not taken any of the medicine; but, even so, two or three years ago* the event would have greatly aroused the suspicions of the Chinese. The people now decided that the foreign doctor was not to blame. A short time afterwards one of the school boys took ill quite suddenly, and died in two or three days. We have been agreeably surprised to find that in this case also no one has thought of blaming us. These two sad events serve to show that our Chinese acquaintances are beginning to have a good deal of confidence in us.

Fenchow Fu, Shansi, China, Dec. 4th, 1901

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith:-

After I last wrote to you I was at Taiyuanfu, and remained there until Mr. and Mrs. Clapp returned from the coast.

The boys in the school were greatly pleased to have their teachers back again. They ran outside the south gate of the city to meet them.

I feel more and more that the school is doing a good work. One cannot help perceiving that the people if not as friendly as they were, still they are not very hostile. Even now two instances recently occurred which might have put the confidence of the people of Fenchow to somewhat of a test. One day a man was found dead on the wall of the city with a little bottle of foreign medicine and one of Dr. Goldsbury's slips in his hand. It was found that he had not taken any of the medicine, but, even so, two or three years ago this event would have greatly stirred the suspicions of the Chinese. The people now seem to think that the foreign doctor was not to blame. About this same time one of the school boys lost his life quite suddenly after an illness of three days. We have been agreeably surprised to find that in this case also no one has thought of blaming us. These two small events serve to show that our Chinese acquaintances are beginning to have a good deal of confidence in us.

After leaving T'aiku, I removed immediately to this place. In my last letter to you, I mentioned the fact that I had just succeeded in renting property here. Some opposition was afterwards raised by one individual who thought himself of some importance, but this man has since quieted down, as far as open opposition is concerned. The general population appear to be more or less friendly; or, at least, they were so until recently. The bad rumors concerning foreigners are being industriously circulated just now, and as a result the people do not come near me. The Shansi people are apt to show their dislike in that way rather than by acts of personal violence.

Jên Ts'un is a large, walled village, with a total population of about 5,000 persons. There are good markets here. Three watchmen go about in company by night making a noise altogether out of proportion to the importance or the size of the place. One beats a gong, another shakes a very noisy rattle, while a third~~one~~ rings a a bell and shouts out the state of affairs.

Dr. Goldsbury will come out once a month to treat the sick. He began the day before yesterday. There was a good run of patients. The doctor's work will help greatly to open up the evangelistic work in this section of the country.

It was late before I could come here in the fall, but I have succeeded in fixing up one room for a chapel and another for a residence.

Very faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson.

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Shansi, Dec. 4. 1891.
Rec'd Feb. 8, 1892.

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Very faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts'un, Shansi, China, Feb. 2?, 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith:—

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the reception of your favor of Nov. 11, wh. came four days ago. I thank you for the suggestion about purchasing property here. It is my intention to ask the advice of the Mission at the An. Meet. next week.

When I wrote to Mr. Ward, I knew that the Pru. Com. could not make grants at the request of the individual members of the Mission. What I really wanted to find out was, if the grant for new work could be carried over from one year to another. Mr. Ward writes that it cannot

I was prevented by illness and other causes from raising up as much of that fund as was needed last year. But the Mission will probably vote me enough of the contingent fund for my work here.

With regard to purchasing property here or elsewhere, we are nearly unanimous that it is better to buy and repair our own property than to repair old houses for Chinese landlords. The Chinese themselves laugh at us for wasting money on their broken-down places. And we have spent a good many hundred dollars in that way. But there is a strong feeling in the Mission that we have bought unwisely, too. I do not share fully in that opinion, but I do think that individual members of the mission have had too much of their own way in the past.

I am paying 5,000 cash per year for the place I am now living on. Ninety-one cash count 100. At the present rate of exchange the whole sum amounts to about $36.50. It would take about $200 to put the buildings in a proper state of repair; but I do not intend to do much repairing this year, and if my health should give out, the place could not be occupied as a station.

My chief reason for coming here instead of going to Wen Shui, was because there appeared to be a better opening here. Then, too, this is nearer one of the other stations, and the mission thought that as I was to be alone it was better not to go very far away. Large villages are numerous in this section of the field.

The influenza is back among us. Eighty per cent of the people are said to be sick with it.

"I have had golden opportunities to preach the Gospel here this winter. There are three inquirers, but I cannot say whether they are sincere or not. A teacher brought his idols and tablets – 8 in all – and gave them to me. It is strange if such a man can be insincere, but a Chinese will do even more than that in order to get taken on by the foreigners. Nearly every Chinaman is a sort of politician running for office.

I can speak and read the spoken language quite readily. I was greatly encouraged a little while ago. After preaching at a place called Tan Ts'un, 8 miles east of this village - I overheard a man on the outskirts of the crowd ask another if he understood what I had said. The latter replied yes, he understood every word. The local dialects are more difficult to speak, and there is probably not a missionary in the province who would be readily understood by the common people outside of the circle in which he constantly labors. The people often pretend to understand when they do not. A missionary of more than average ability who has been in the country nearly ten years told me that when traveling on a Chinese cart not long

Jen Tsun, Feb. 2, 1892
Rec'd Apr. 19.

since he entered into conversation with the carter, who assented to everything that was said. At last my friend asked him (in English) Do you understand what I say? to which the carter replied (in Chinese) yes. It is my custom to ask if the meaning is understood. Most commonly the people understand the language but they do not comprehend the thought.

I read Chinese in the forenoons when at home. This year, I hope to be able to tour regularly to about one dozen villages. We must concentrate our efforts in order to get results.

Very faithfully yours,
J. B. Thompson.

Jen Tsin, Feb. 2, 1892
Rec'd Apr. 19.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts'un, Shansi, China, Mar. 26th, 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith : I am glad to be able to say that we have a day school started at this place. Nine boys are already in attendance and four others have been promised to come in after a few days. We are prepared to take twenty pupils only and I fully expect to have that number in the course of a month or two.

Two of the boys are unusually brightand they appear to take a peculiar delight in learning Christian doctrine. In every instance the parents have been given to understand that our main object in opening the school is to teach Christian truth. We require the pupils to be on hand daily for morning worship and to attend service twice on the Sabbath.

The school has been running about a month and I find that in one instance the teaching has already begun to bear fruit. Last week the birthday of Kuan Yin occurred. Kuan Yin is the goddess of Mercy and of children. On that day one of our pupils was told to carry an offering to the goddess, but he replied that he could not do so because to do that would be to sin against the true God, He said he had been taught in the school that there was only one true God and that all other gods are false. This boy is one of the two above referred to and I have great hope that both of them will in time become preachers to their fellow-countrymen.

There are three other points at which I want to establish day schools as soon as we can find competent and reliable teachers to teach them. We need to pray most earnestly that the Lord would thrust forth such men to work in His harvest fields.

There are four inquirers at this station. One of them is the father of two of the school boys, and I believe him to be quite sincere. It is my expectation to take the four of them on on probation in a week or two.

The room in which we hold our Sabbath services is altogether too small for the purpose. It will seat about thirty-five persons and it is generally full. I am intending to fix up a larger room this summer, Our regulations regarding worship are getting to be well understood, so that all who come stay till the service is ended. This rule is only insisted upon at the Sabbath services. On all other occasions people may come and go whenever they please.

For some time I have been out nearly every day visiting the surrounding villages. My experiences in such work are in the main most delightful. The people are always willing to listen. I almost invariably take sheet tracts with me for distribution but sometimes I take books for sale. The other day I was struck with the reason a man gave for purchasing a copy of St. Luke's Gospel. A by-stander asked him why he bought that book. He repled he bought it because the book said they brought little children to Jesus. My plan is to visit a few villages and visit them often.

Faithfully Yours,

J. B. Thompson

Shansi, March 26, 1892.
Rec'd May 14.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts'un, Shansi, China, Ap. 21st, 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith :--

Your favor of Feb. 10th reached me to-day, our courier having made a remarkably quick trip from the coast.

In reply to your questions, I may say that the mission hopes Jên Ts'un will be a permanent station. There is a splendid opening here for Christian work and there are various large villages within easy access on all sides. I am expecting after a while to open three regular preaching stations in three of the largest villages. The first preaching station will probably be opened within a week or two at a village called Fan Ts'un 6 [redacted] miles east of this place. I hope to be able to establish day schools at those places in course of time. At present we have no teachers in view for such work. We have 10 pupils in our Jên Ts'un school.

At the an. meeting, Dr. Atwood and Mr. Price were appointed a committee to visit this place and advise with reference to the work. Dr. A. was unable to come, but Mr. Price and family made me a visit last week and expressed themselves as being well-pleased with what they saw. These friends felt that there ought to be a family located here to help carry on the work; and I quite believe that two regular missionaries could do a ~~regular~~ splendid work for the Master in this neighborhood. There are as yet no

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts'un, Shansi, China, Ap. 21st, '92.

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The most trying experience of my missionary life came upon me not long since. One of my rooms was broken into and all my winter bedding and some other articles stolen from it. I am disposed to think that the robbery was perpetrated in the day time while I was away. Putting all the circumstantial evidence in the case together, I concluded that the men in my own service must have been concerned in the transaction or that they must certainly know of it. Now, my gate-keeper professes to be a Christian, tho he has not yet been baptized; and you can hardly imagine the state of my mind when I fully realized for the first time that not only the whole outside population could not be trusted but that even the men whom I employed would conspire to rob me; that, in other words, there was not a single person in the place in whom I could have a single spark of confidence.

It has since come to light that my gate-keeper gambled and lost considerably while I was away attending the an. meeting, and the goods were stolen to help liquidate the debt.

We look for Mr. and Mrs. Williams next month.

Very faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

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Very faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

Rec'd June 8.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, May 30th, 1892

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd., Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith : By this mail I send you a photo. of Mr. Liu, taken by a native, and a picture of T'aiku from the west gate. The latter was taken four or five years ago and has been lately printed at the coast.

The sad news comes of the death at Fencho Fu early last week of Mr. Price's second son, Donald Edward. It will be a great blow to his parents and every member of the mission will feel his death as a personal loss. It means that another little life has been given for China. May the kind Master Himself more than fill the vacancy that has thus been made.

It is certain now that there will be at least a partial famine in the Province the coming fall and winter. Should a sufficient quantity of rain fall during this month it would prevent the famine from becoming general in this region. The rainfall has been short for three years in succession.

We are working steadily on, without anything special to report. The eleven boys in the school attend regularly and they are getting a good knowledge of Christian doctrine. To-day I made an encouraging visit to a village six miles east. I trust the way will soon open to make that place a regular out-station.

Faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

Jên Ts’un, Shansi, China,
Sept. 5th, 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith : I am very sorry to learn from a letter to the Sec. of the mission that the grant for a hospital for T’aiku is not likely to be made this year. The grant is needed in order to make Dr. Goldsbury’s work as efficient as it can be. Stil, the mission did an unwise thing in burdening the dr.’s request with another petition for an amount wh. no one at present needs. It does not seem right to me to ask for a grant of money "in case any one shd. want it." I earnestly hope the Pru. Com. wil be able to make the grant for the hospital.

I am glad to read your encouraging words to me about school work. It is not in my thought to devote all my time to the school here, but I feel justified in devoting a good deal of attention to it. I am taking a small district and trying to evangelize it as far as one man can do so. I want to start one or two, or more, day schools in my district as soon as suitable teachers can be found. My plan is to have the teaching done by natives, while I would visit the schools about once a week, have the boys rehearse to me, and do what I could at teaching them the doctrine. There appears to be an opening for such a school at a village about six miles east of this place, but the man who is helping me in the matter has been quite sick for some weeks and he is not able to get out yet.

One of these schools wil cost about $75 a year, and it is

a most encouraging line of Christian work. It is a good thing we have at last come to recognize the fact there is a hopeful work to be done among the children.

There are nine boys in the school at this place, ~~There were~~ 12 names on the list, but one has been expelled for irregular attendance, another has to work in the fields, and the third, being a resident of another village, can scarcely be called a regular pupil. The nine are quite regular in their attendance. They are unusually bright and take almost perfect delight in learning their lessons. They like especially to learn Christian books. The oldest boy in the school, altho of a good family, never amounted to anything til he came to our school. Now he is a changed lad. He went to a Chinese school for three years but nothing could make him learn; in our school he stands readily at the top. The other boys are doing splendidly too. In the case of Four--who is the boy referred to above-- the teacher says it must be the work of the Holy Spirit and I pray it may prove to be so. This boy and one other have applied to enter the probationers' class.

All the boys attend daily worship and are present at the two services on the Lord's Day. I always take pains to have them understand. The instruction is imparted chiefly by means of question and answers.

About four weeks ago something occurred to try the courage (and the good sense) of some of the parents. Several of the boys had an eye trouble come on rather suddenly. Now the eye is believ-

ed to be one of the parts which the Christian doctrine is most calculated to ruin; so I naturally expected the boys would not be permitted to attend the school any more. In this I was mistaken, and after a few days the boys were all in their places again.

This is not a boarding-school. Stil, several of the boys stay on the place all the time, their parents sending in their food. I am planning to give about a half-dozen of them room accommodation in the winter, as I am glad to have them on the place. I have just commenced an evening class with four boys, and it appears to be as interesting to them as it is to me. My teaching is all from Christian books, but I hope to be able to arrange to give them a little knowledge of arithmetic, geography, and gen. history. I shall feel that my life is wel spent if I can be the means in God's hands of raising up a few earnest native preachers of the gospel."

There are no baptisms to report from my field this year. In December I expect to take on five or six on probation.

Hoping you are wel,

I am, Faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

Jên Ts'un, Sept. 5, 1892.

Rec'd Nov. 21

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts’un, *Shansi, China,* Sept.16th,1892

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Sec. Am. Board,

Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith : --

Inclosed please find a copy of a reso. asking for a grant of One Thousand Dollars ($1000) for the purchase and repair of property at this place. This is not a hasty act. All the brethren (and all but two of the ladies) have visited the village and are convinced there is a good opening here. All approve of purchasing the property now occupied and wh. can probably be bought at a reasonable price. It wil take about Five Hundred Dollars ($500) to make the purchase and the other $500 wil be spent in repairing it. It is believed that the latter sum is sufficient to make the property suitable for chapel and school purposes and for my use. In case a family shd. come here to live, it wil then be necessary to ask for another grant for additional house accommodation. The amount now asked for wil be enuf to repair rooms on this place for the accommodation of two families from T’aiku during the summer months. But the main thought in asking for the grant is to equip this station. We can then repair our own property.The sum asked for is not large and can be expended to great advantage.We trust the Com. can readily grant it.

Very Faithfully Yours,

J. B. Thompson

Shansi, Sept. 16, 1892.

Rec'd Nov. 21.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Jan. 16th, 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith : --

We ar now drawing near the close of what has been on the whole a successful school year. There hav been 13 boys in attendance. One was expelled , leaving 12 names on the roll. Of these 12, one has been sick ever since last September. The others hav been quite regular in their attendance. The average attendance wil be about 9; the average at daily worship, 7; the average at Sunday services, 10. It is rare for a pupil to be absent from the Sabbath services. In summer, they all attend daily morning worship, but in the cold weather they cannot be regular as one or two of the boys liv at the other end of the village from where we ar. The youngest pupil is 7, the oldest, 15, years of age. Average, 10 years. Two came late in the year. They all expect to return to us next year. Only two of these boys knew any characters whatever before coming to us. Now six of them can read the Gospels understandingly. Two of them hav committed the Gospel of Luke to memory.

The teaching has thus far been of an elementary nature. The Christian Three-Character Classic, the Catechism, Important Words of Scripture, and a Gospel, ar the books first learned and taught. We hav just commenced with Arithmetic and Geography and next year we hope to teach the beginnings of general history.

The boys like the school. In nativ schools, the characters

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi China, Jun. 16th, 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith : --

We ar now drawing near the close of what has been on the whole a successful school year. There hav been 13 boys in attendance. One was expelled, leaving 12 names on the roll. Of these 12, one has been sick ever since last September. The others hav been quite regular in their attendance. The average attendance wil be about 9; the average at daily worship, 7; the average at Sunday services, 10. It is rare for a pupil to be absent from the Sabbath services. In summer, they all attend daily morning worship, but in the cold weather they cannot be regular as one or two of the boys liv at the other end of the village from where we ar. The youngest pupil is 7, the oldest, 15 years of age. Average, 10 years. Two came late in the year. They all expect to return to us next year. Only two of these boys knew any characters whatever before coming to us. Now six of them can read the Gospels understandingly. Two of them hav committed the Gospel of Luke to memory.

The teaching has thus far been of an elementary nature. The Christian Three-Character Classic, the Catechism, Important Words of Scripture, and a Gospel, ar the books first learned and taught. We hav just commenced with Arithmetic and Geography and next year we hope to teach the beginnings of general history.

The boys like the school. In nativ schools, the characters

Rev. J. B. Thompson
Shansi, Sept. 18, 1893.
Rec'd Nov. 27.

ar not explained, the teachers saying by way of excuse they ar paid to teach the characters not to explain them. We explain as we go along and this makes the school popular with the young folks, and scarcely less so with the parents of those who attend, the parents being proud of the progress which their children thus make.

Thus far this attempt at day school work may be considered a good deal of a success. We ar satisfied that it wil be wel to continue our work in that line. Most of our pupils ar from highly respectable families, but the two brightest boys in the school ar from a poor home. The boys ar frequently railed at on the street for attending a school conducted by foreigners.

The general outlook was never more encouraging than at present. The Sunday services ar wel attended by persons who pay close attention to what is said. I hav mentioned in former letters that there wer a few applicants for baptism. There ar eight, two of them being from the school. I hav decided to take four of them on on probation on Sunday, Feb. 12th, that being the last Sunday of the Chinese old year. The applications hav been in for some time--two of them upwards of a year. The other four, or at least three of them, appear to be quite in earnest. They hav attended services regularly nearly--two of them quite-- a year, but they ar confessed opium users. They say they ar anxious to giv up the habit. They hav renounced idolatry, two of them having brought their idols to me to be burned.

I do not expect to visit many villages this year, my plan is to visit the same villages often. Fan Ts'un is about 6 miles E. of us. It is a large market town. I hav marked it as a preaching station, as

I visit it every week. There is a man there who welcomes me to his shop--an eating-house. I preach to the people who gather around me in the shop. Sometimes there is quite a number present.

Less than a mile from Fan Ts'un is a village called Yen Ts'un, where we hav an inquirer. My wife stops there and teaches the women while I go on to Fan Ts'un. There is a good opening there.

There ar several other large villages around which we--my wife and I--visit, but where we hav no real opening as yet.

My wife is now absent at Fencho Fu, where she has gone to be with Mrs. Davis during the latter's sickness.

We ar having an unusually cold snap just now. The room I am in was built for summer use ; so that I find it pretty hard to keep warm. Water, ink, etc., freeze by night and do not melt by day. The stove appears to hav almost no effect. During such weather as this many of the poor in the mountains hard by freeze to death.

We hav begun this year ful of hope. I earnestly trust the Pru. Com. wil not be compelled to grant less for this station than the sum asked for. We cannot wel do with less. In fact, we ought to hav more as it is only now the work is beginning to open around us. The reaping time cannot be far off.

Trusting that this year may be ful of fruit in all the missions of the Board, I am,

Respectfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

Rev. J. B. Thompson
Jen Ts'un, Jan. 16, 1893.
Rec'd March 20

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Fen Ts'un, Jan. 16, 1893.
Rec'd March 29

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, *Shansi, China*, March 29th, 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith :--

You probably know ere this of the death of Dr. Goldsbury. It is a great blow to us, but we bow to the divine wil. What the Lord in His wisdom appoints must be for the best; and this event appears to be distinctly providential. It generally happens that we can trace the origin of the disease whereof our friends die, but in this instance we are left totally in the dark. We can only surmise that the fatal fever was taken from some patient in the dispensary. The doctor did not know he had been unduly exposed to contagion, but when the fever first came on he expressed his opinion that it was typhus.

Dr. Goldsbury's last ful clinic was held at this place, exactly a fortnight before his death. He then appeared to be in good health and I never knew him to be happier than he was at that time.

I do not think I can overestimate the value of the help the doctor gave me in opening up the work here. When I first decided to come here, Dr. Goldsbury volunteered to hold a monthly clinic in this field, for the purpose of helping on the evangelistic work. At first the notices were quickly torn down but the people soon learned to appreciate his visits and many friends were soon made. At the very time of his death the doctor was planning to help in a similar way at a recently opened out-station. All this was volun-

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

[illegible], Shansi, China, March 25th, '93.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith :--

You probably know ere this of the death of Dr. Goldsbury. It is a great blow to us, but we bow to the divine will. What the Lord in his wisdom appoints must be for the best; and this event appears to be distinctly providential. It generally happens that we can trace the origin of the disease whereof our friends die, but in this instance we are left totally in the dark. We can only surmise that the fatal fever was taken from some patient in the dispensary. The doctor did not know he had been unduly exposed to contagion, but when the fever first came on he expressed his opinion that it was typhus.

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Speaking for myself, I can say that I feel profoundly impressed by Dr. Goldsbury's early death. I had learned to love him very dearly for his own, as wel as for his work's, sake, and I think it wil be a long while before the unbidden tear wil cease to come. And yet death does not now seem so terrible as it did. We are thankful for our brother's example in life, and we rejoice that we could lay him away in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection.

It is only right to ad that the climate was not specially to blame for Dr. Goldsbury's untimely death. But his death emphasizes the fact that physicians are peculiarly exposed to contagious diseases in such a country as this. And hence missionary physicians should have special remembrance at the throne of mercy.

We hope and pray that some one may soon volunteer to take up the work which Dr. Goldsbury has so soon been called upon to lay down.

Faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

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J. B. Thompson

J. B. Thompson
Jeu Tsun, March 29/1893
Recd May 23

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Mar.13th, 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith : --

Your favor of Dec. 28, announcing the favorable report of the China Committee with regard to the purchase of property here, was received per last courier from the coast. The action of the Pru. Committee in this matter affords us very great satisfaction. I on my part hope to have wisdom to use the money to the greatest possible advantage. The members of the Mission are unanimous in the conclusion that our present property here is really the most desirable in the mission. Dr. Atwood has said that if the Board could afford to do so, it would pay wel to buy these compounds for a summer resort. The grounds are beautiful for China, and the houses are built so that they can be wel aired, a circumstance at once desirable and rare in Chinese houses. The place was built by a wealthy Chinese for a summer residence, but the owner is dead and his family are in greatly reduced circumstances. Theatricals were constantly performed in the summer months in the court where we now preach the Gospel.

I am happy to be able to say that this grant of $1000 wil be quite enuf for the present. If we can purchase the place, it wil be necessary in a year or two to ask for a supplementary grant to renew a part of the wall, but no other large grant wil be needed until such time as a second family can be located here.

2

I understand it is a rule of the Board that a grant must be begun to be used during the year on which it is made as otherwise it reverts to the Board. If this requirement can be suspended in the present case it will be a great favor. The very best time to make such transactions as the purchase of property, etc., in Shansi is just before the Chinese New Year, or during the last month of the old year. That will be in January next, but if I rightly understand the regulations of the Board on this point I could not make the purchase then as the grant would have reverted to the Board.

We are feeling greatly encouraged in our work at this station. The services continue to be well attended. A few women have begun to come, one of whom appears to be interested in the truth. My wife and I have begun to visit the homes from which these women come and we are received with great cordiality. There appears to be an interesting opening at Fan Ts'un a village which I visit every week. It is too soon to say how it may result, but at present we have reason to feel encouraged with the prospect there.

The six catechumens are giving satisfactory evidence of sincerity. Three others will be received Sunday, Ap. 9. There are two or three more who will be admitted as catechumens as soon as they can be helped to break off their opium habit.

J. B. Thompson

It was my intention to reopen the school yesterday, and most of the pupils are ready to resume their studies, but an unforeseen event has made it necessary to postpone the opening for another week. A fortnight ago, while I was absent a few days at Fencho Fu, our teacher was laid hold of and badly beaten by some fellows on the

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I hear that the father of one of our catechumens has refused to let his son attend our school this year. The boy was one of the best pupils in the school. I obtained the old gentleman's consent in writing before letting the boy enter as a catechumen, but probably some pressure has been brought to bear upon him since and hence this decision. The on family is a very respectable one and I suppose they are not yet willing to be closely identified with Christianity. The boy is fifteen years old and there appears to be good evidence that the Holy Spirit has begun to work upon his heart.

Of the three to be received next time, two of them are pupils from the school.

I have the village work wel in hand now, and I most earnestly hope that this year wil witness some important results from it.

Very Faithfully Yours,

J. B. Thompson

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Rev. J. B. Thompson
Jen Tsun, Mar 13, 1893
Rec'd May 23

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jēn Ts'un, Shansi, China, June 5th, 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith:--

We have been favored thus far this summer with delightful weather, and my wife and I have been making the most of it for doing missionary work. The days are cool and specially favorable to such work.

Everything this year is encouraging. The Sabbath audiences are always good, sometimes even quite large. There are a few regular attendants. One man comes from a village six miles away. Another is from a village seven miles distant. Both are regular in their attendance. They are upwards of fifty years old. One of them has attended more than a year, the other about seven months. They walk to and from service and I see no reason to believe they are not sincere Christians. There is another man who is breaking off opium in Mr. Clapp's refuge. This man was deeply impressed on hearing of the death of Dr. Goldsbury. A personal conversation deepened the impression then made, with the result that the man professes to believe in the Savior and desires to receive baptism. We trust he is sincere. It is something that he has left his work in the midst of a busy season and gone at his own expense to spend a month in the T'aiku refuge. He is in good circumstances, so that we cannot think of any reason why he should try to impose upon us.

" The village work is intensely interesting. Visits are chiefly made to three large market villages. From these centers vast populations are reached as the markets there are attended by people from all the surrounding country. Incidentally, other places are visited also, but we feel it to be the part of wisdom to work chiefly in the market towns. The people at these places are friendly, and in one of them a good opening has occurred.

~~It is~~ as the work opens up before us ~~that~~ we see how really vast it is. I am more and more deeply impressed with the importance of the command to pray for laborers. There is need of earnest native laborers. Women especially could do a splendid work now as numbers of their country-women are willing to be taught the doctrine. Patient, persevering work now would in course of a few years yield abundant and blessed results. Certainly, I never knew the general outlook to be as encouraging as it is just now.

" We greatly miss Dr. Goldsbury, as his monthly visit always cheered us. I have lately met with instances which show that his work was even more widely known than I supposed it to be. The other day a woman hailed me as I was passing thru ough a village, and asked if I knew Dr. Goldsbury. She said he had cured her of a long-standing complaint, and that she had heard the Gospel while in the dispensary. All such persons are genuinely affected when told that the doctor has passed away."

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Faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

Jen Tau, June 5, 1893

Filed Aug. 2

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Aug.29th, 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec.Am.Bd., Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith : --

The cool fall weather is once more upon us, making it more possible to "redeem the time." The summer was unusually hot. For more than a month the glass stood at nearly ninety in the house.

During the hot season we could not do much more than keep up the two Sunday services, tho of course daily morning worship was regularly maintained. We have almost an ideal place for a summer chapel. It was originally built for a theatrical stage, is roofed in, and has three sides open to the air. Both the services have been well attended. Half-past five p.m. is the time at wh. the second service is held.

Mr. and Mrs. Clapp spent the summer with us and we found it a very pleasant change to have them here after spending so many months alone. Mr. Clapp and I alternated in holding a few services at Liman Chuang, where the Atwaters held the fort alone during the worst part of the rainy season.

We are all fairly at work again now. My wife and I are again left alone in our glory, but we cannot get lonesome--there is too much work to be done. There are many doors of useful labor to be entered.

I regret to say that we have deemed it desirable to close our day school for the present. The teacher proved to be unsatis-

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Aug. 28th, 189[illegible]

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Sec. Am. Bd., Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith : --

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I regret to say that we have deemed it desirable to close our day school for the present. The teacher proved to be unsatisfactory. With splendid openings for evangelistic work all around us I did not feel justified in giving much attention to the school, especially as one member of our small staff is giving all his time to such work. I soon found that the teacher did not do much when I was out. The boys did not get their lessons well and the school lost the good reputation which it had won. Parents complained that their children were not making progress. Several of the pupils were withdrawn. In view of these facts I closed the school and dismissed the teacher.

At this writing there is no prospect that our school will be reopened at an early date. It is extremely difficult to obtain trustworthy teachers. There is no one in view. Most of the men who come around us play out before very long. Before dismissing my teacher, I had a strong suspicion that he had "turned to his vomit (opium) again" and these suspicions are now confirmed by facts that have come to my knowledge. This man has considerable natural ability and if the angels rejoice when a sinner is converted it does not require a great stretch of fancy to think of them as weeping when such a man falls.

Three of the boys who attended our school have gone to Mrs. Clapp's school. Others of them will probably go to T'aiku after a while.

The articles in the "Missionary Herald" by natives, showing what God has used the Board to do in various countries are a great inspiration.

Very Cordially Yours,

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Jen Ts'un, Aug. 29, 1893.
Rec'd Oct. 21,

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts'un, *Shansi, China*, Sep. 14th, 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith : --

I returned yesterday from another visit to Ch'ing Yuan. The visit was a profitable one to me. It inspired me with new courage The district is properly under the care of Dr. Atwood but what with medical work and evangelistic work his hands are more than abundantly filled; so I go occasionally in his stead.

The city is not an inviting place . It is more than half under water. I was informed that the fish eaten by the inhabitants are all caught in the city pond--a story which I can believe because I myself saw numbers of fish sporting themselves in the sunlight. But there is a strange, death-like odor emenating from the pond which makes a foreigner desire to get away from it as soon as he can. Ch'ing Yuan is in a grape-raising region and I found plenty of delicious grapes selling there at two pounds for a cent.

The work at Ch'ing Yuan is in the immediate charge of our worthy native brother Mr. Du (if I may spell his name as it is pronounced.) This man is one of the Lord's heroes. He went there last spring and soon succeeded in establishing a school of twenty or more pupils whom he has diligently instructed during these months. It is emphatically a Christian school—a sort of Sunday School conducted all the week. When I visited the school on Tues-

day of this week there were 18 boys present. The best of order prevailed. Mr. Du had remained faithfully at his post of duty during the hottest weather and the boys had been regular in their attendance. The latter had learned the names of all the books in the Bible, the names of the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and of many noted men, women and places mentioned in the Bible, together with some of the principle facts in the lives of those persons. He had even taught them the names of the twelve spies and the names of the twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem, and also the names of the plagues in Egypt. All this is in addition to what has been taught concerning our Lord's life and work. There can be no doubt that the boys in this school will be well instructed in Biblical history. It seemed to me that the boys had a real affection for their teacher. Besides the regular teaching Mr. Du holds worship with his pupils twice a day, [redacted] and conducts services on the Sabbath. There are several persons there interested in the truth.

While at Ch'ing Yuan I met an interesting young man who is a member of a peculiar religious sect. They do not believe in marriage or in eating meat and hold other uncommon views. Some of them even go on preaching tours. I felt drawn to the young man just referred to because he is evidently in earnest to secure the salvation of his soul. I pointed him to the only Savior of sinners as the one who can give him the salvation he is seeking. He gave me his address and asked me to call on him when I go to the city day of this week there were 12 boys present. The best of order prevailed. Mr. Wu had remained faithfully at his post of duty during the hottest weather and the boys had been regular in their attendance. The latter had learned the names of all the books in the Bible, the names of the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and of many noted men, women and places mentioned in the Bible, together with some of the principle facts in the lives of these persons. He had even taught them the names of the twelve tribes and the names of the twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem, and also the names of the plagues in Egypt. All this is in addition to what has been taught concerning our Lord's life and work. There can be no doubt that the boys in this school will be well instructed in Biblical history. It seemed to me that the boys had a real affection for their teacher. Besides the regular teaching Mr. Wu holds worship with his pupils twice a day, and conducts services on the Sabbath. There are several persons there interested in the truth.

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I am still on the lookout for a teacher for our school here. I have been told of a man but as yet I have not met him ; so do not know if he will do. There is a good opening at this place if we can find the right man.

In other respects the work at this station is encouraging. The Sunday audiences are good. Most of those who were taken on as catechumens are still faithful. Some of them have made evident progress in the new life. One has dropped out and one has returned to his opium.

The work among the villages is of growing interest. It is a rare thing not to be well received. I find favorable opportunities for personal conversations on religious topics and these opportunities I value as most likely to yield the desired fruit.

This is truly a most blessed work. It is interesting beyond expression to watch the workings of the Holy Spirit as manifested in the new thoughts and new lives of those who become truly transformed by His renewing power.

Trusting you are well and that the friends of the Board will rally to its support, I am,

Faithfully yours,

J. B. Thompson

[illegible], Sep. 14, 1893.

Rec'd Nov. 1.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Oct. 19th, 18

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith :--

Dr. Atwood will probably write you the particulars about Mr. Davis and the inexpressibly sad affliction that has fallen upon him. It is impossible to express the sense of loneliness which comes over us when one of our number is for any reason withdrawn from our circle. This case is peculiarly trying. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been earnest missionaries and gave promise of doing a fine work. In one of his latest letters he speaks of the fact that he had arranged to keep up and visit an outstation during the present winter. Mrs. Davis has a girls' school on a partially self-supporting basis. Already there are five girls in attendance and one was on the point of going down from here when the sad news reached us. I do not know what arrangements have been made with regard to Mr. Davis but if he must be sent home I do not know of any one who is likely to carry on the work which Mrs. Davis has so well begun. Thus we are again shown how mysterious are the ways of Providence. 'Your ways are not My ways, saith the Lord.' The truth of this is realized in a most emphatic sense on the foreign mission field. Within one short year two standard bearers and two other valuable workers will probably have dropped out of our ranks.

Mr. Davis has also made a most painstaking treasurer.

Sep. 14, 1893

The churches at home think they are doing a great thing when they send out a few missionaries a year to the foreign field . They do not realize that if they sent three times as many we shd. still be shorthanded. As it is when one falls out there is no one to take his place. Not only so. As we are now when one of our number is taken seriously sick it generally takes all the rest of the staff to take care of him. Thus nearly all the work is brought to a standstill.

It will be necessary for us to be absent two months or more this fall seeking medical aid. I regret that the station will be left vacant during the time we are away. There is no help for it. We are going to T'aiyuan Fu as it is two days' journey nearer than Fencho Fu. We thus hope to be able to return before the end of the winter. I have made arrangements to begin a station class immediately after our return. This is only one respect in which the ~~the~~ death of the lamented Dr. Goldsbury has changed the plans and stopped the work of the mission. We had been led to hope that Dr. Wilson could come to be with us but he himself has been seriously ill and he is still far from well; so that hope has fallen to the ground.

Very Truly Yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Fĕn Ts'uen, Oct. 19, 1893.
Rec'd Dec. 27.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts'un, Shansi, China, Dec. 4th, 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd., Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith :--

We are all greatly relieved to know that Mr. Davis is better. He has been with us nearly a week in hope that the change will do him good. It is probable that it will be a good while before he can do hard mental work again.

Next week we intend to commence our station class. There will be four men and one or two women in the classes. Possibly the number in attendance will be a little larger after a while. All who come are required to furnish their own food and bedding. We undertake to give them fire and cooking utensils.

I hope we may be able soon to procure a teacher for the day school here. I have lately heard of a man who will probably do.

While at T'ai Yuan Fu I had a good opportunity of seeing the work done by our Eng. friends there. Their work is older than ours. They have a good deal to encourage them . On the other hand, they have their discouragements just as we have.

We are anxious to get the report of the An. Meeting. This is no time to retrench on this field. It is a time to 'go forward.'

Very Cordially Yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Fên Ts'un, Dec. 4. 1893.

Rec'd ~~Jan~~ Feb. 2, 1894.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jên Ts'un, Shansi, China, Jan. 10th, 1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Smith:--

I wrote you some time ago with reference to the grant made by the Pru.Com. last year for the purchase of the property which we occupy at this place. I understand that the rules of the Bd. require that a grant of money be used in the year in which it is made by the Pru.Com. or at least that it shall be drawn upon during the year, and that otherwise the grant reverts to the Board. I wrote to ask if an exception could be made in our case but I am afraid the letter did not reach you. The best time for purchasing property is at the Chinese New Year which wil be about Feb.1. It would be well if the Pru.Com. would make this grant a permanent one so that we can use it when it can be spent to the most advantage. (The sum granted was $1000.) The mission is perfectly unanimous on this matter. It is felt that the work is developed far enuf to justify this outlay.

My wife has made a plan of our property, a copy of which we hope to send you soon. I expect also to forward a few photographs of our court, the village, etc. We had spoken together of sending you a map of this section showing our field of labor, but we have decided in accordance with the request contained in your favor of Nov.1 to see about getting out a map of our whole Shansi field.

As we review the past year's work we are thankful for what we were permitted to do. It was the happiest as well as the busiest and the most useful year of my life. We had two services in Chinese every Sunday during the whole year, when at home. Besides this, we held daily worship with those on the place and such others as cared to attend. I made one hundred visits to the villages around us chiefly to the large market towns, besides five visits to Ch'ing Yuan each of which latter took a half-week. My wife was able to make thirty-seven visits to teach women in other places besides the visits made to women in their homes in our village. This work has not been done at random but according to a plan and with the definite purpose in mind of making Christ known to those around us. It is not all we hoped to do but it was a privilege to be able to do what we did. During part of the year more or less attention had to be paid to the day school. There are at least two months each year when almost no village work can be done, and last year we had a necessary absence of more than two months.

We find that there are three distinct stages in the development of the work in its initiatory period. The first is when work is newly begun in a locality. Then people come in crowds to see the foreigner and to ask endless questions; then comes the second stage when curiosity is satisfied and no real interest aroused. Then no one comes. At last the time arrives when one here and another there become interested in the truth and make up their minds to brave the scorn of their countrymen and go in search of the pearl of great price. The first stage is exceedingly trying to our nerves, the second is trying to patience, the third is often trying to both faith and patience by its

discouragements but it also brings the assurance of ultimate and complete victory. The work at our three stations has reached the third stage; so we "thank God and take courage".

We have a station class of five persons four of whom are catechumens. Others, including some women, are expected after the Chinese N. Year. Of the ten persons taken on last year we have decided to baptize one only at present. Two fell off, one was rejected, and the other five will be required to wait.

I am sorry that we have not yet secured a teacher for the school. I wrote you that we had heard of a suitable man but he lives 25 miles distant and it has not been practicable to go to call upon him. My wife has been poorly most of the time since we came back from T'ai Yuan Fu; so I hav not felt justified in lieving her alone by night, as would be necessary if I went so far away. The death of the baby makes her feel all the more lonesome when I am not at home and while she has been too weak to undertake to do Christian work. The man whom I dismissed has gone to T'aiku to live and he has there publicly confessed that three of the charges I made againsthim are true.

Wishing all the work of the Board abundant prosperity, I am,

Very Cordially Yours,

J. B. Thompson

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SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, June 8th, 1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd., Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

There has not been much to write about in connection with our work this year. I hav kept up touring until the present time, but the weather has now become so scorchingly hot that it wil be necessary to go less often. I greatly enjoy visiting the villages.

I regret that we hav not been able to re-open our school. The only men available as teachers did not commend themselves to either the brethren or myself. We must therefore wait until we can find a suitable person for the position.

We hold two services here every Sunday. Of late the attendance has been on the increase.

Mr. Williams and family ar here for the summer. It is a pleasant change to us to hav another family with us.

At the an. meeting we asked for a furlo next year or the year after. We hope to wait til '96 as by that time the work at this station wil be on a more substantial footing. But we wer constrained to ask this year because I am subject to very painful hedakes which recur quite frequently. If these continue it may be necessary for me to go home next year.

Of the appeals sent from our an.meeting I trust the Pru. Com wil speedily grant the one calling for $500 for a chapel at F.C. Fu. It wil be a wise use of funds. Without such a chapel much of

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Dr. Atwood's work is practically lost. A woman's hospital is also a necessity there. In my opinion the day has gone by in our mission for a free dispensing of medicines. Very little need now be done in that line and more attention should be given to exclusivly hospital work. This would yield manifold more results spiritually.

With reference to some of the other appeals sent from our an. meeting, I hope the Pru. Com. wil be slow to grant them. I hav specially in mind an appeal to move all the T'aiku work outside of the city and sel our present property there. It strikes me that such a policy is a very short-sighted one. It may be all right to sel the T'ai Ho Ch'iao property at F.C.Fu but it is not necessary to build another house at Nan Shui Ching. The mission has had a tendency to change its mind on some matters and we do not even now know what is best in some lines. Several of the members of the mission ar too recently on the field to be qualified to giv an opinion on such an important matter as giving up one place and beginning work at another. At all events let great changes be made slowly.

There has been a misunderstanding about the grant of $1000 for the purchase of property at this place. We wer instructed not to use the fund without further word from the Pru.Com., and as no further word was ever received we did not feel that any grant had been placed at our service.

Very Cordially yours,

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J. B. Thompson

Jen Tsun, June 5, 1894
Rec'd Aug. 6, 1894

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Aug 3d, 1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

This summer has been an anxious one with us owing to the ilness of Mr. Williams. About a month ago we thought he was better but he was suddenly taken down again. Dr. Edwards came to attend him during the first attack and Dr. Atwood came up when he was taken sick again but the doctors did not know what the trouble was. Mr. Williams is a little better now. Yesterday he left to go to Yü Tao Ho near Fencho Fu in hope that the change may do him good.

The summer has been a warm one. The rains came later than usual so that the heat was very intense in the erly part of July. Notwithstanding the great heat I hav been able to study nearly every day. We hav an excellent personal teacher. We invited him in from Paoting Fu in the spring. Dr. Noble recommended him to us and we find him to be satisfactory.

We hav kept up two services on Sunday all thru the summer. The second service is usually wel attended. Beyond this it has not been possible to do much.

The only baptized Christian at this station died in June. He had been sick three or four months. I visited him regularly. He suffered a great deal but when the nativ doctor urged him to take

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Aug 24, 1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

This summer has been an anxious one with us owing to the illness of Mr. Williams. About a month ago we thought he was better but he was suddenly taken down again. Dr. Edwards came to attend him during the first attack and Dr. Atwood came up when he was taken sick again but the doctors did not know what the trouble was. Mr. Williams is a little better now. Yesterday he left to go to Yu Tao Ho near Fencho Fu in hope that the change may do him good.

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We ar stil accorded a welcome in the village where our friend resided. My wife and I hav recommenced our weekly visits there and we hope to be able to keep them up until the hot season comes around again.

I hav mailed the following fotografs to your address :

No. 1. Missionary Cemetery, T'ai Yuan Fu
No. 2. View of our front yard, looking from the front door.
No. 3. View of our village.
No. 4. Mr. Price's School.
No. 5. Our front court, looking towards the front door.

I regret that we hav no view of the house. Our court is much less gorgeous than the pictures make it appear to be. I am sorry that the view of the village is not very good but it is the best I hav succeeded in taking yet.

Trusting you ar wel, I am,

Very Truly Yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Thompson [illegible] 3 1887

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J. B. Thompson

Shansi, Aug. 3, 1894.
Rec'd Oct. 2,

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Sept.21st,1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

We deeply regret to lern by your latest favor received per last mail that you wer in such a state of helth as to necessitate a separation from your work for a few months. We ardently hope and pray that the rest and recreation thus obtained may lead to a complete recovery. We ernestly desire for you many years of service in your chosen sfere. We try to realize as far as we can what a hevy burden our secretaries at home hav to carry. The task laid upon them is by no means a light one ; so we scarcely wonder that the fysician has enjoined a period of respite for you. We shal not cease to pray for your restoration.

You wil be glad to know that the war does not affect us in here yet. We hav to lern about it from the coast papers. We trust it wil be overruled to the further opening up of Korea to the Gospel.

In ful hope that you wil soon be able to write to us again,

We ar, very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.
Dietta H. Thompson.

Shansi Also 3 1894

Shansi, Sep. 21, 1894.

Rec'd Nov. 20.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Oct. 27th, 1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

On Tuesday of this week we had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Hall and family into the mission. They appear to be excellent people. We hope for them many years of usefulness. The doctor thinks he can hold a weekly clinic right from the beginning without interfering with his studies. If he can do so it wil be a real help.

Mr. Williams and Miss Bird appear to be slowly recovering from the diseases which hav laid them aside for a time. It has been an anxious time for us while they hav been sick.

The war has not disturbed the Shansi people yet. I was told this week that a proclamation has been issued calling for a large sum of money. My informant says the people ar afraid to trust the government with their money.

I hav nothing new to report concerning the work. We ar doing what we can to make the Gospel known. In due time there wil be an abundant harvest to reap from the present sowing.

I trust that your helth is improving.

With ernest prayer for your ful recovery, I am,

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Jen Tsun, Oct. 27 - 1894

Recd. Dec. 28

There ar fine opportunities here for extending the work. We can easily find room for schools for boys and girls with station classes and other work besides. There ar houses enuf for two families on the enclousure and these houses can be fixed up at a nominal outlay. The house which we now occupy has been fitted up at a cost of less than one hundred dollars to the Board and $150 more, spent on it in the course of two or three years, would make it a choice residence. We hav good water in our own court. There ar two fine cellars, and the chapel accommodation is excellent for the present.

One thing that recommends this place is that it puts us within easy reach of a number of large villages. There ar five market towns around us, either one of them near enuf to be visited in an afternoon. In most of these villages no evangelistic work had been attempted before we opened this station. Since then it has been my great privilege to visit a number of them quite often and by voice and tract make Christ known to the inhabitants. My wife has worked in some of them among the women. Great indeed is the change that has taken place in the sentiments of those people towards the missionaries. Whereas at first we wer constantly followed and called after by crowds, now we ar as a rule treated with respect and not a few invite us to tel them about the Gospel. But even now there ar numbers of villages on both sides as we go to and from T'aiku where we cannot find time to go. My plan has been to take a smal section and seek to thuroly evangelize its inhabitants before reaching out to the regions beyond.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Nov. 22d, 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I trust that this letter wil find you fully recovered and at your old place in the rooms.
You wil hav herd of the arrival of Dr. Hall and family. They ar to be with us at Jen Ts'un this winter. We like them wel. We hav secured a teacher for them and both the doctor and his wife ar working every day at the language. Alredy a number of patientS hav been in for treatment and Dr. Hall has decided to hold a weekly clinic, one week for men the other for women. The clinic wil be held on Saturday so as not to interfere with the hours that ought to be given to study. Dr. Hall has kindly offered to continue a monthly clinic here even after he goes to T'aiku to liv. It has lately been intimated to us that the property which we occupy here may soon be offered to us again and at a very reasonable price. The mission and the Pru. Com. hav both voted in favor of making this purchase but unfortunately we hav not any money on hand for that purpose just now.

Nearly all who hav visited this town since I first came here to reside ar loud in their praises of the place as in a helthful location. Drs. Edwards and Wilson (whose names ar probably known to you) say that this is the most desirable place they know of in Shansi. Many others hav testified to the same effect.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

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There ar no great results from our labors to show yet, but we ar not altogether without marks of the divine approval. I think I wrote you concerning Mr. Kang who died in June of this year. He had been a Christian about three years and had been baptized less than a year. He bore a good testimony for his Lord both in his life and also when he came to die.

We hav two women here now who ar studying with reference to entering their names as catechumens. We expect to receive them in that capacity next month. One or two men wil receive baptism this winter and a son of one of our Christians wil be received as a catechumen.

We hope to encourage the people in supporting their own Christian work right from the beginning. It is my intention not to rent rooms for places of worship but to require the people to provide such places for themselves.

Our patience is often tried, but we believe that in due time God wil send an abundant harvest.

Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson.

P.S. — My wife has made a ruf plan of our courts and I wil ask her to forward it to you. — J. B. T.

Jen Ts'un, Nov. 22, 1894.

Rec'd Jan. 17. 1895.

Jew Tsolun, Nov. 22, 1894.
Rec'd Jan. 12. 1895.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Jan. 29th, 1895

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

You wil be glad to know that the war has not changed the attitude of the people here towards us yet. They appear to be as friendly as ever. Of late I seldom hear any mention of the war. The war news is always quite old when it reaches us. In fact we ar indebted to the Shanghai papers and to an occasional reference in letters from the coast for all the information we possess of the progress of the war.

We wer pained lately to hear that our friends at Pao Ting Fu ar harassed a good deal by the Chinese soldiers.

In the good providence of God we hav been permitted to complete another year's work. I find by the record kept that I made one hundred and thirty visits to the surrounding villages during 1894. My wife made seventy-five visits to the villages. This represents so much systematic work done. My wife's visits wer all for the definit purpose of teaching women who ar under instruction. My work is largely street work in three large market towns. We hav been very cordially received in nearly every instance.

Within the last four years about twenty thousand tracts, chiefly leaflets, hav been distributed from this center.

Two years ago we took on ten persons as catechumens. Of the ten only one has been baptized up to this time. One was rejected

frm Boston, Nov. 22, 1894.

four fel away and one moved back to his old home near Fen Cho Fu. One died a victorious deth. We stil keep track of the other four. In the erly months of this winter my wife had two women here for more than a month studying the Gospel. Both of these women hav applied to be received as catechumens. While they ar at home my wife visits them each week to further instruct them in the things concerning the kingdom of God. Last week we took on another catechumen, a poor man who came seeking medical treatment and who has seemingly yielded to the divine claims. Apparently he has a clear conception of what sin is which is something I never find among the Chinese saving as it is begotten of the Gospel. It is too soon to say what this man's profession amounts to. Time wil tel.

We hav not been able to reopen the day school for want of a suitable teacher. We hav no one in mind for the position.

Dr. Hall and family hav spent the winter with us. We ar glad to hav them here. They expect to go to Liman Chuang for the summer.

Mr. Davis and family hav been here all the winter too. Mr. Davis appears to hav fully recovered from the severe attack of the influenza which threatened his life more than a year ago, altho he wil probably never be quite so able to endure hardship as he was before that sickness overtook him. Nearly every one who comes to China and stays long enuf is called upon to pass thru an acclimating experience after which there is not so much to be feared. It is to be hoped that Mr. Davis has passed thru that experience. As a fact they came up in the fall without any thought of staying several months but Mr. Davis improved so rapidly here that the mission voted, informally, to four fel away and one moved back to his old home near Pen Cho Fu. One died a victorious deth. We stil keep track of the other four. In the erly months of this winter my wife had two women here for more than a month studying the Gospel. Both of these women hav applied to be received as catechumens. While they ar at home my wife visits them each week to further instruct them in the things concerning the kingdom of God. Last week we took on another catechumen, a poor man who came seeking medical treatment and who has seemingly yielded to the divine claims. Apparently he has a clear conception of what sin is which is something I never find among the Chinese saving as it is begotten of the Gospel. It is too soon to say what this man's profession amounts to. Time wil tel.

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We hav not decided when to start for home. I don't think I need to go for my fysical helth but after one has been in a heathen country nine or ten years one's mind needs the fresh incentiv which comes from a visit to the home-land. I am troubled with frequent bilious hedakes, apart from which I do not appear to hav any ailment. I am thankful to be able to say this after spending nearly ten years in the interior of China.

We hav had a cold winter with more snow than usual. The snow came erly in the fall and it has remained on the ground all the winter--a most unusual occurance in Shansi.

I trust that all the friends of the Board wil rally to its support this year so as to fulfil the expectations raised by the annual meeting at Madison in Oct. last.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

let them stay at Jen Ts'un all the winter. At a nominal outlay a place was fitted up for the girls' school; so the work did not suffer. Mrs. Davis helped my wife in her teaching both at home and in the villages and my wife in turn helped to teach the girls in the school. Mr. Davis accompanied me to the villages some times and the out-door life this involved agreed with him wel. I hope he wil be able to stay at this place and carry on the work while I am at home on furlo.

We hav not decided when to start for home. I don't think I need go for my fysical helth but after one has been in a heathen country nine or ten years one's mind needs the fresh incentiv which comes from a visit to the home-land. I am troubled with frequent bilious headakes, apart from which I do not appear to hav any ailment. I am thankful to be able to say this after spending nearly ten years in the interior of China.

We hav had a cold winter with more snow than usual. The snow came erly in the fall and it has remained on the ground all the winter--a most unusual occurance in Shansi.

I trust that all the friends of the Board wil rally to its support this year so as to fulfil the expectations raised by the annual meeting at Madison in Oct. last.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson

Jen Tsun, Jan. 29, 1895.
Rec'd Apr. 8

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, March 1st, 1895

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

You wil be glad to know that the war has not reached us yet. We ar not molested or interfered with in any way whatever. A man told me to-day that the people dred the Chinese soldiers more than they do the Japs. We of the American Board Mission ar indebted to our friends at T'ai Yuan Fu and at the coast for what information we possess concerning the war. The Chinese about us do not know the state of things.

We go on with our work day by day without any reference to the war. Now that the Chinese N.Year festivities ar over the attendance on the Sabbath services is improving again.

You may hav a caller from Shansi some time during the coming spring. The Rev.G.B.Farthing of the Eng.Baptist Mission,T'ai Yuan Fu who has been our mission examiner for two or three years is starting on a furlo with his family, going by way of the United States. I gave Mr. Farthing your address and assured him that you would be happy to see any one from Shansi, especially one who has been so closely connected with us as he has been. We hav had to call upon Mr. Farthing among other things to act as custodian of our part of the missionary cemetery at T'ai Yuan Fu and to attend to the erection of hedstones for Dr. Goldsbury and children who ar buried there from our mission.

We hav had a severe winter--for Shansi. Snow fel in the fall and it has remained on the ground ever since, at least until within a day or two when the power of the sun has caused it to evaporate. I never knew snow to remain on the ground in Shansi so long before.

It is pleasant to be able to welcome the advent of another spring. In the good providence of God we hav been kept in good helth all thru the winter. There is no sickness in the mission at this writing.

We look forward with considerable pleasure to the approaching an. meeting of the mission. We trust it may prove to be a time of spiritual refreshing.

It is commonly felt among the missionaries that the present war wil prove to be a good thing for China. It wil help to bring down the pride of the Chinese and opium and pride ar two great obstacles to the spred of the Gospel in China.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

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Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Jen Tsuin, March 1, 1895

Filed April 23

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, April 12th, 1895

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

You wil be glad to know that the war is stil leaving us undisturbed. We go on with the work just as before war was declared. The people appear to realize that the missionaries hav nothing to do with the war.

There is nothing special to report.

It is expected that the an. meeting of the mission wil be held at this place commencing on Sunday, Ap. 14.

In August of last year I sent you a few fotos which I am afraid never reached you. I think it was soon after the pictures left Shansi that word came that war had commenced between Japan and China. I hope to print again in midsummer when I shal send you a few more. I hav not found it convenient to take any new fotos since last an. meeting time.

The warm weather is setting in but it is stil cool enuf to allow us to do our regular work without any great discomfort.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Jen Tsun, April 12, 1895

Rec'd May 25

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, June 4th, 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec'y of the Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

The announcement of Mr. Ward's deth reached me by the latest mail from the coast. Every one who knew Mr. Ward wil regard his deth as a personal loss; for he greatly endeared himself to all who had any thing to do with him. This is emfatically true in my own case. He lived a beutiful Christian life. He died a blessed deth. His last letter to Dr. Hitchcock, published in The Advance, makes inspiring reading, especially in view of his triumfant deth.

I hav nothing new to report in connection with the work. I am keeping at it and the weather has been favorable right up to date. The spring is an exceptionally good one for the farmers, as there hav been copious rains. Land that has been idle for years is being cultivated this season. The people ar thankful but their thanks, alas, ar renderedto their idols.

The mission has just voted another five per cent discount in incomes in order to help the Board out of its perplexity. I am not acquainted with the financial standing of the other members of the mission but I do not think that in ordinary times a salary of $950 is any too large. Our courier bil alone costs each member about $25 per year. I understand that a few families hav saved quite largely in the past but this was due to an almost extraordinary development of the saving habit.

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SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS - TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi China June 4th, 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec'y of the Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

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In my own case the income is certainly sufficient. I am glad that I hav never needed to use additional grants. The Pru. Com. twice generously voted me assistance but on both occasions I afterward found that I could do without the aid ; so the money was refunded.

I believ it wil always be found true that the members of this mission wil be redy to reduce the income to the lowest possible point in order to help the Board over an emergency.

My wife and I intend to leav for home in Nov. next. It is our intention to go by the European route, taking the French steamers from Shanghai to Marseilles. I find that this is the cheapest way to go as it wil obviate one trip all across the American continent. The only objection to it is that it wil be necessary, or at least strongly advisable, for us to leav China in the fall insted of in the spring. To offset this we expect to travel nearly three months at our own expense. We hav also a number of invitations to stop over on the route. We plan to reach N.F. in April where I plan to rest a few months before proceeding to the States. We hav decided to ask the Pru. Com. to grant us at the rate of $75o a year while we ar at home.

I am perfectly willing to wait til the spring of '96 before going home but I am so much troubled with biliousness that our two doctors say I had better go next fall. I am quite reluctant to leav the work even for I time but I feel assured that a change wil do me a great deal of good.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

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I am perfectly willing to wait til the spring of '96 before going home but I am so much troubled with biliousness that our two doctors say I had better go next fall. I am quite reluctant to leav the work even for 1 time but I feel assured that a change wil do me a great deal of good.

Very truly yours,

Pangchuang, June 4 – 1895
Filed Aug 13

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Aug. 2d, 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I was very glad lately to receiv a letter from you in reference to the development of self-support in the nativ churches. I am hartily in favor of this movement. In fact it has always seemed to me that the matter has not been pushed enuf hitherto. In the past there has been too much money at the disposal of the missionaries. The nativs knew we had plenty of money but the time has come when we can tel them we hav no money to spare. The Chinese pay largely for the support of their temples and there is no reason why Christian Chinese should not do a good deal towards Christian work. It appears to me that our work wil be a failure unless we ar able to establish a self-supporting, self-propagating Christianity here.

We ar having an exceptionally fine year. The crops ar more luxuriant than any time in the past ten years.

I am shocked at the cruel attack on Dr. Sheffield. We pray ernestly for his recovery.

All here ar wel.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

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SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi China Aug. 24, 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I was very glad lately to reciv a letter from you in reference to the development of self-support in the nativ churches. I am hartily in favor of this movement. In fact it has always seemed to me that the matter has not been pushed enuf hitherto. In the past there has been too much money at the disposal of the missionaries. The nativs knew we had plenty of money but the time has come when we can tel them we hav no money to spare. The Chinese pay largely for the support of their temples and there is no reason why Christian Chinese should not do a good deal towards Christian work. It appears to me that our work wil be a failure unless we ar able to establish a self-supporting, self-propagating Christianity here.

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All here ar wel.

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson

Jen Tsun, Aug. 24, 1895

Rec'd Sept. 27

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Sept. 2d, 1895

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. of the Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I am delighted to know that Mr. and Mrs. Clapp ar on the point of starting on the return trip to Shansi. It wil greatly strengthen the hands of all the workers here to hav them on the field again.

In accordance with the permission of the Pru. Com. as communicated to this mission in your letter of June 23d, 1894, my wife and I plan to start for home on the 4th of Nov. next. We expect to take several months on the trip as we hav a no. of invitations to stop over at different places. We expect to reap a good deal of benefit from the furlo. I am loth to leav the work for so long a time but it seems best to do so. My wife has not been quite wel since the baby was born and Dr. Edwards under whose care she has been advises a change.

I cannot at this writing giv exact p. o. addresses for the trip but I hope to send them later.

Hoping to find you in good helth when we reach the U.S. and praying that the work may go on and prosper, I am,

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi China Sept. 24, '96

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. of the Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Rec'd Oct. 21

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I am delighted to know that Mr. and Mrs. Clapp ar on the point of starting on the return trip to Shansi. It wil greatly strengthen the hands of all the workers here to hav them on the field again.

In accordance with the permission of the Pru. Com. as communicated to this mission in your letter of June 23d, 1894, my wife and I plan to start for home on the 4th of Nov. next. We expect to take several months on the trip as we hav a no. of invitations to stop over at different places. We expect to reap a good deal of benefit from the furlo. I am loth to leav the work for so long a time but it seems best to do so. My wife has not been quite wel since the baby was born and Dr. Edwards under whose care she has been advises a change.

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Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Rec'd Dec. 21

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Oct. 12, 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

Your favor of Aug. 5 came duly to hand. I am glad to know that our plan to go by the European or route from Shanghai will commend itself to the Pru. Com.

We hope to start in about one week from this date but it wil be impossible to decide til the last moment. My wife is absent attending Mrs. Williams and it has been necessary for me to spend two or three days a week at Liman helping to take care of Dr. Hall; so up to this date we have not been able to get our things packed.

My first P.O. address wil be care of Rev. C. R. Nelson, Canton, the next care of the

Lest he, [illegible]

[illegible] point of sending [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible]

the work.

In accordance will [illegible]

[illegible] glance at your letter of [illegible]

[illegible] on the 4th of Oct. last. We [illegible]

just to tell [illegible]

[illegible]

not [illegible] until [illegible]

[illegible] back to [illegible]

[illegible]

I cannot at this writing give exact [illegible]

trip but I hope to send them later.

hoping to find you in good health when we reach [illegible]

[illegible] the work [illegible] on and prosper, I am

Very truly yours,

Am. Bd. Mission, Jaffna, Ceylon.
Letters would be forwarded to me from either of the foregoing points. We expect to reach England late in March. My London address will be

C/o Alfred Johnson, Esq., M.D.,
57 Talbot Road,
Bayswater, W., London.

We have an invitation to visit Rome. Probably a letter sent there in Feb. would reach me. The address there will be

C/o Rev. Mr. Wall,
35 Piazza in Lucina, Roma.

But I hope to write you again giving the dates more exactly.

Owing to the numerous invitations we have to stop with friends at various places the trip will be a comparatively inexpensive one.

Very cordially yours,
J. B. Thompson.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Oct. 25. 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

Your letter of Aug. 15 reached me this week announcing the action of the Pru. Com. in reference to a furlo for myself and my wife.

This communication surprised me greatly, first, because I did not apply for a vacation at the last annual meeting of the mission and, secondly, because I did apply at the An. meeting one year ago, and the application then made was acted on favorably by the Pru. Com. as officially reported to this mission in a letter dated June 23, 1894. On the strength of this vote by the Pru. Com. I have made preparations for going home

this fall. In view of the fact that I have always conformed faithfully to the rules of the Bd. I feel somewhat hurt at the implications in your recent letters to the effect that I have been arranging to go home without having first obtained the consent of the Pru. Com.

In my letter to you of June 4, 1895, I stated what my plans are with reference to the homeward trip and the expenses of the same.

I have not sought this change because my health demands it but because I believe a change will do me good generally.

With thanks for your good wishes, I am,

Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson

Rec'd Dec. 18

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Port Said, Egypt, ~~Shansi, China,~~ Feb. 7, 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd.,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I am happy to be able to inform you that we are now reaching the end of our journey. We embark to-morrow forenoon and hope to reach London in a little more than a fortnight.

We made a short trip to Palestine where I was sick at Jerusalem for five days. We found Mission friends who were very kind to us. I was pleasantly surprised to find that a trip to Palestine can be made at quite a moderate expense. I am

Very Truly Yours,
J. B. Thompson.

P. O. Address:
St. John's, N. Y.

Rec'd Feb. 29

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

London, Eng. ~~Shansi, China,~~ March 2d, 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

I am thankful to be able to report that my wife and I arrived here in good health on Friday afternoon, Feb. 28. We find it necessary to get a little tailoring and dressmaking done before we shall be in a fit condition to cross the Atlantic.

I have no late news from Shansi; so I do not know how the friends and the work there are. In the last letter that has come to hand great satisfaction is expressed at the return of Mr. and Mrs. Clapp.

With kind regards, I am,
Very cordially yours,
J. B. Thompson.

London, March 2, 1896.

Rec'd March 16.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

St. John's, N.F. ~~Shansi, China,~~ May 1st 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I am thankful to be able to report our safe arrival at St. John's, per S.S. Carthaginian on the afternoon of Monday last, April 27. My mother is still alive, tho she is very feeble.

I desire to ask the Board for a grant of $50. a month while we are in N.F. commencing with the first of May. Owing to my wife's condition it will be impracticable for us to proceed to the U.S. before the fall.

With kind regards, I am,
Very truly yours,
J. B. Thompson

P.O. Address:
C/o "Evening Telegram"
St. John's N.F.
(Postage 5 cents)

St. Johns, May 1. 1896.
Rec'd May 14.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

St. John's, ~~Shansi, China~~ N.F. May 26, 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd.,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

Your favor of May 15th has been duly received.

On May 11 a new arrival occurred to us—a little girl. She is thriving and my wife is able to sit up.

I am glad to read that the Board's debt has been cleared off. I hope the churches will sustain the Board now in a forward movement in China.

With kind regards
Very cordially yours,
J. B. Thompson

P.O. Address:
C/o "Evening Telegram"
St. John's, N.F.
(Postage 5 cents.)

St. John, May 26, 1898

Recd June 1

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

St. John's, N. F., ~~Shansi, China~~, June 12, 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd.,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

Your favor of June 1st, inclosing one that had been previously returned from St. John's, has been duly received.

I thank you for your kind congratulations in reference to the baby.

Mr. Wiggin has very kindly sent me the first month's allowance voted by the Pru. Com.

We plan to go to the U.S. in Aug. or Sept. I trust we may be able to do something next winter to bring the great cause of missions to the notice of some of the churches in the Western States.

With kind regards, I am,
Very truly yours,
J. B. Thompson.

St. Johns, May 26, 1896

Filed June 18.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

St. Johns, N.F. ~~Shansi, China~~, Aug. 13th 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd.,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith;—

Our visit in this country is drawing to an end. We intend to start for Boston during the first week of Sept. if we can. My wife and I are much refreshed by ~~this~~ this bracing air and the baby tho delicate is also improving.

We have done considerable speaking for missions but it has been for other denominations. Congregationalism is very weak here & there is only one self-supporting church in the land.

Hoping to find you well,
Very truly yours,
J. B. Thompson.

Filed June 18.

Rec'd Aug. 21

Filed June 18.

St. John's, N.F.,
Aug. 21, 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I find there is no ship going to Boston this month, at least there is no certainty that there will be one. So Mrs. Thompson and I have decided to take the S.S. "Carthaginian" to Philadelphia, a week from next Monday, Aug. 30, unless the baby is considered too delicate for such a long sea voyage. This route will occasion fewer changes and effect a saving of about $20.00. We hope to be able to visit Boston next spring when the baby is stronger.

I am planning to attend the An. Meeting at Toledo.

Very truly yours,
J. B. Thompson.

Rec'd Aug. 21

St. Johns, Aug. 21, 1896
Rec'd Aug. 25

Cleveland, O.,
Sept. 9, 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Mrs. T., baby and I reached this city 11 o'clock a.m. yesterday from Philadelphia. We took a fine run up from St. Johns to Philadelphia.

I am planning to attend the An. Meeting of the Board at Toledo and I have written to Mr. Whitaker to secure accommodation, according to your suggestion.

We are thankful to find ourselves once more in the "Land of the Flowery Flag." I am,

Very cordially yours,
J. B. Thompson

Present Address:
C/o Mr. Geo. H. Brown,
154 Lawn St.,
Cleveland, O.

Cleveland, Sep. 9. 1896.

Rec'd Sep. 11.

Box 42, Pepin, Wis., Dec. 22, 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

As my wife and I hope to return to Shansi next Aug. or Sept. we desire to apply for the usual grant made to returning missionaries. If convenient we would like you to present the application soon after the holidays. Our baby has been so delicate that we feared my wife could not return with me but the prospect is becoming more encouraging.

It is to be regretted that the contributions have fallen off. I trust it will be only temporary. I see that other boards, as well as the home missions, are suffering also.

Very truly yours,
J. B. Thompson

[illegible], Dec. 22, 1896,

Rec'd Dec. 28.

Pepin, Wis., Jan. 4. 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Your favor of Dec. 30, intimating that the Pru. Com. has authorized our return to Shansi the coming fall, was received on Sat. morning. My wife and I have been greatly benefitted by our visit to this country. We were glad to come home but we are also glad to be able to look forward to a return to the field of our labors. If the work is not interrupted I confidently expect that the next few years will witness an encouraging ingathering. I am,

Very truly yours,
J. B. Thompson.

Pepin, Jan. 4 - 1897

Rec'd Jan. 6

Box 42,

Pepin, Wis., March 13, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

It now appears to be pretty certain that my wife and baby wil not be able to return to Shansi with me this year : so I am planning to go out without them. If the Prices return in the fall I hope to accompany them : otherwise I intend to go alone. In the latter case I can arrange to leav San Francisco by the "Peru" Aug. 24.

The return to this cuntry in a month or two of Mr. Atwater with his four motherless children, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, and Miss Bidd wil leav the Mission with greatly depleted ranks. This all comes, too, at a time when the work is opening up in a more encouraging manner than ever before.

It would be a fine thing if the Board could send another M.D. to Fencho Fu. Dr. Atwood is doing faithful work there but he cannot endure forever.

I understand that Mr. Williams intends to move his family to Jen Ts'un for the summer. This is a wise decision. The house occupied at Jen Ts'un is dry and the surrounding air is good. During the winter there hav been eighty persons residing constantly on the premises occupied by the Mission at T'aiku.

As I am going back alone it wil not be necessary for me to use more than $150, or less, of the refit money. The rest I wil leav for my wife to use when she is redy to returnL 'which I trust is in accordance with the rules of the Board under such circumstances.

It is to be hoped that the Board wil soon feel the return of prosperous times in largely increased contributions. I am,

Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Pepin, March 16, 1897.
Rec'd March 22.

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Pepin, Wis., April 26th, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

I was sitting at the table engaged in making out my refit order to send to Boston when word came from Shansi that has led me, after consulting with my wife, to place our resignations in the hands of the Pru. Committee. We desire it to take effect from to-day,† as this date completes the year of furlo allowed by the Board to its missionaries in this country.

It is with sad feelings that we hav come to this decision, but we deem it wise to do so. The reason is this : When I went to Jen Tsun to work I did so at the suggestion of Dr. Atwood, as approved by all the members of the mission, tho Mr. Clapp's approval was reluctantly given. Afterwards Dr. Atwood opposed the attempt to make it a permanent station, tho he said it was worth a great deal to the mission as a helth resort. We found it to be a most desirable place. There is a no. of large villages around where no mission work was done until I worked in them. I rented splendid property at a nominal price. The mission unanimously voted, by individual signatures, to buy the property. Things wer going wel until Dr. Atwood and Mr. Clapp made up their minds that the place was too near Taiku, from which it is distant about 15 miles. Dr. Atwood favored moving the Taiku station to Jen Tsun, but Mr. Clapp was not willing to move so far from Taiku. Then it was suggested that Jen Tsun be made a sub-station of Taiku, but I am opposed to doing tha I cannot see what good it would do. Letters hav now come from Shansi informing me that at the last An. Meeting it was decided to abandon Jen Tsun as a station. There ar several reasons why I do not care to open a new station. For one thing, the brethren ar so given to change that there is no assurance that they would not vote to close it again in a year or two.

I desire to acknowledge with many thanks, the courteous treatment you hav always accorded me. The Board has treated me handsomely from the beginning. In view of the falling off in receipts perhaps it is just as wel now for some of the missionaries to resign.

I hav drawn a portion of my refit allowance but the money now due me from the Board together with the balance coming to me in Shansi, wil more than cover this amount.

I must respectfully request erly action on the part of the Pru. Committee, as it wil be necessary for me to look around for a church. I am,

Very respectfully yours,

J. B. Thompson.

† or the last of the month, as the Treas. pays me by the calendar month.

Pepin, March 16, 1897.

432

Pepin, Wis. April 25th, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

I was sitting at the table engaged in making out my refit order to send to Boston when word came from Shansi that has led me, after consulting with my wife, to place our resignations in the hands of the Pru. Committee. We desire it to take effect from to-day, as this date completes the year of furlo allowed by the Board to its missionaries in this country.

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Pepin, Apr. 25, 1897.
Rec'd Apr. 30.

I desire to acknowledge with many thanks, the courteous treatment you hav always accorded me. The Board has treated me handsomely from the beginning. In view of the falling off in receipts perhaps it is just as wel now for some of the missionaries to resign.

I hav drawn a portion of my refit allowance but the money now due me from the Board together with the balance coming to me in Shansi wil more than cover this amount.

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Vry respectfully yours,

J. B. Thompson.

*At the last of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Pepin, Wis., Ap.29,1897.

Rev. Judson Smith;D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

On looking over the "Handbook For Missions and Missionaries," I find (p.7: sec.2) that I ought to hav appealed from the vote of the Mission to the Pru. Com. insted of resigning at once. Please to understand that my wife and I ar not anxious to leav the service of the Bd., but we absolutely refuse to abide by that vote of the Mission, or to leav the matter an open question during another term of service on the field. (The vote mentioned was in com. It wil not appear on the minutes I am informed by letter that formal action was deferred til Mr. Davis and family and my wife and I ar back on the field. Dr. Hall was not present. Dr. Atwood wrote to count him against J.T. as a station, and Messrs. Clapp, Williams, and Atwater voted with Dr. A.)

Dr. A.'s inconsistency in the matter can be seen, ~~in part~~, in part, from the minutes. I was intending to locate at Wen Shui when Dr. A. suggested the J. T. district to me. I visited the field and was delighted with the outlook. In conjunction with the late Dr. Goldsbury I drew up a paper requesting to be located there. It was signed by all the members of the mission. I was at the time supplying for Mr. Clapp, who was absent at the coast. He also signed it, but wrote saying he did so reluctantly; as he thought it was too near Taiku. At the following an. meeting Rev. C.W.Price and Rev. Dr. Atwood wer appointed a com. to visit J.T. and report as to the desirableness of the location. Dr. A. did not go as, he was alredy acquainted with the field. Mr. P. made a verbal report in favor, Dr. A. verbally approving. The next year the Pru. Com. wer asked for a grant of $1000 to purchase and repair the place (each member signed the paper.) The vote was made by the Com. but as Mr. C. was unwilling to pay more than about $300 for a place that was easily worth $1000 to the mission, the matter fel thru. The next year Dr. Atwood was opposed to making J.T. a station. He accused me of having sent around the first paper while Mr. Clapp was absent so as to take advantage of that circumstance. Nothing could ever hav been farther from my thoughts. No accusation could hav been more unjust. The first intimation I had that Mr. Clapp felt that way was in the letter referred to above. (I hav lerned since that he regards that whole district as far as Ching Yuan as his field.) To my mind this claim is absurd. There ar one hundred thousand people within a half-day of J.T. who did not hear the Gospel til I went there. And yet Mr. Clapp says the district is a part of his field. It ought to be said in justice that after signing several papers asking for grants, etc., for Jen Tsun Sta., he claims that he regarded it all the time as a sub-station of Taiku,!

The property at Jen Tsun is the most desirable to be found in our Shansi field. It is plesantly situated. There is a large population around, with two cities within easy reach. If I went to a new field it would take years to buy and repair property and then it could not be compared with the property at J. T. I am positivly unwilling to spend even a part of another term in that way, not to mention the years it takes to make new friends among the Chinese. I am therefore not wil-

Pepin, Apr. 29, 1897.

Pepin, Wis., Ap.29,1897.

Rev. Judson Smith;D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

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Jen Tsun is a fine place for girls' schools or boys' schools and general missionary work. If the brethren desire to move the Taiku work there, I am willing they should do so, but I am not willing to go back, either to be a member of the Taiku staff or to go to another station. The brethren ar so given to change and to voting a removal when the task is thrown upon some one else, perhaps in a year or two they would come to the conclusion that the new station was merely intended to be an out-station under the jurisdiction of Taiku.

In view of my explanations please regard my previous letter either as a resignation or an appeal, whichever you think best.

I regret that I hav no copying apparatus So I cannot very wel make a proper copy of this letter either to keep or to send to the mission. As this letter and the previous one hav been written in copying ink, if it is not too dry when it reaches you, I shal esteem it a favor if you wil kindly request a clerk to make a copy and forward it to the secretary of the Shansi Mission. I am,

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Pekin, April 29-1897

Rec'd May 3

Box 42,

434

Pepin, Wis., May 3, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. A.B.C.F.M.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

Your favors, dated respectivly Ap.28 and Ap.30, both reached ~~m~~ me this noon. That of ~~Ba~~ Ap. 28 speaks of a suggestion made by Dr. Hall, that I ought to furnish a medical certificate. Dr. Hall's allusion to my insomnia made me smile, as for more than eight years I ~~was abl~~ hav been able to out-sleep every one I know anything about. With regard to bilious attacks, it is true that I did hav such before coming home. In fact I stated this when I applied to the Pru. Com. for a furlo, tho I did not apply for a furlo on that ground. I did not know, until this letter came from you, how much importance Dr. Hall attached to them. When I applied to him for treatment he merely gave me a few sedlitz powders. I very seldom lost a day at a time from my biliousness, but I was occasionally, not often, compelled to rest for a half-day. I hav had similar attacks since coming home. The attack comes in the form of a bad hedake, and generally I am able to sleep it off. Last summer I underwent a thoro examination at the hands of a very competent M.D. (Dr Kendall, St. John's, N.F.) who stated that my system appeared to be quite sound. He was stil testing me in various ways when the time came for us to leav St. John's. Since coming here it has not been convenient for me to consult a doctor regularly as the nearest one is about four miles distant. I hav consulted one at Lake City, Minn., at different times and he has treated me for the hedakes. I hav not had one now for two or three weeks, but whether it wil return or not I am not able to say. I hav never yet had to fail in keeping an appointment owing to this trouble. I can obtain a medical certificate from the doctor who has been treating me at Lake City, or from some one else, when I hav an opportunity, but of course such certificate cannot state more than the doctor who writes the certificate knows. My general helth is better than it was when I went to China twelv years ago. I am less nervous ~~th~~ than I was then. I sleep better. I weigh forty pounds more than I did at that time.

The questions raised in your letter of Ap.30 ar partly, perhaps fully, ansered in mine of Ap.28. Stil I wil mention a few points now, in order to make the position as clear as possible. It may be wel to state that it is not a personal matter at all. I do not think for an instant that any of the brethren who voted hav any dislike to us. Why should they ? Neither ar we moved by any personal animosity towards them. It is a question of plans for future work. Some of the brethren want to close up Jen Tsun and open a station some where else. It was talked of while we wer stil in Shansi. There was nothing to indicate a Providential leading. No two members wer agreed as to where the new station ought to be located. No exploration of the field had been made for that purpose. I claimed that Jen Tsun had been opened by a vote of the mission and that it afforded a good field for village work. The mission voted Rev. F.W.Davis and family there to assist in carrying on the work. By a unanimous vote it was agreed to purchase property

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there and matters wer going on nicely when to my surprise I found there was a desire on the part of one or two members of the mission to close up the station and request the members of that station to open one somewhere else. I cannot feel that such a fancy on the part of a member of the mission constitutes a call of Providence to me : so I was unwilling to listen to the suggestion. Such a change would necessitate years of repairing, which always proves to be a hindrance to the work. Then a long time is required in which to make the friendship of the surrounding population, which is a very necessary step. As I did this to some extent at Taiku, more fully at Fencho Fu, and to a great extent at Jen Tsun, I do not think the mission ought to ask me to do it again, without good and weighty reasons. Yet at the an. meeting held in March last it was decided to do this by a two-thirds majority --a majority large enuf to call for action on the part of the Pru. Com., (p.6, sec.3 of Handbook.) It is claimed that the places ar too close together for an economical use of the Board's money. Rev. G. L. Williams in writing to me of the action of the mission, says : "It affects you and I know wil giv you pain." He explains it as follows : " Mr. Davis brought up a res. to ask for $3,500 to fix two families at Jen Tsun. Every other one present thought it unwise to fix one station permanently so near another station while so large portions of our field ar stil unoccupied. Dr. Atwood had also written that his vote should be counted against it if the question came up." This vote affects Mr. and Mrs. Davis as much as it does us, and Mr. Davis, in a letter to me, says : "It hurt me the worst of anything I ever had." It wil now remain for the Pru. Com. to say whether it takes the same view as the majority in the mission or not. I do not feel like going back and facing an uncertainty on this matter. It was not a charming prospect I looked forward to of going out alone, it would be stil less attractiv to look forward to a mission contest. I am,

Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson.

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Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Peking, May 3, 1897.
Rec'd May 7.

Box 42,

435

Pepin, Wis., May 8, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. A.B.C.F.M.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I hav not received any word from you since your favor of Ap. 30th came to hand. In order to save time I hav decided to report to you the latest conclusion which my wife and I hav reached with reference to resuming the work in Shansi. Yesterday we received letters from Rev. C.W. and Mrs. Price in which they suggest that if we do not return to Shansi it is quite probable that Mr. and Mrs. Davis wil refuse to return also, as the vote to close up Jen Tsun Station affects them as much as it affects my wife and me. Mrs. Davis and my wife hav devoted themselvs to work among the women and girls ; so they would be greatly missed from the mission. As far as my wife and I ar concerned it would griev us to be compelled to giv up work on that field where workers ar so greatly needed. All we desire is to be allowed to go on with the work. Rev. F.M. Price once remarked to me in Shansi that if the members of the mission would attend to their own affairs without meddling with the affairs of others "for the good of the mission" the Master's work would make much more rapid progress. I fully believ this. I am now somewhat accustomed to the people and the climate and I hav a good working knowledge of the language. So the next term of service, if it is not to be spent in looking up a station and in superintending repairs, ought to be much more effectiv than the term that is past. I am redy to accompany the Prices in the fall when they return to Shansi, provided I can go back and work in the field that I left : tho should the hand of Providence subsequently lead to other parts of the field I trust I would not be found unwilling to go. I do not feel there is anything else that I can say on this subject. I am,

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Pepin, May 8, 1897.

Rec'd May 10.

A. C. DOCKSTADER,
HOMEOPATHIST.

436

Lake City, Minn., July 12 1877

This is to certify that I
ve Examined Mr J B Thompson
I find his health good &
o constitutional diseas.
es had had slights attacks
f Headache's but is much
proved in that respect &
t present has them very
lights & longer intervals.

Dr A C Dockstader

Dr. A. C. Dockstader

Lake City, July 19, 1897.

Rec'd July 26

Rev. J. B. Thompson

Pepin, Wisconsin,
July 21, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,
Sec. A. B. C. F. M.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

Since I wrote you in May we hav had a very anxious time over our baby, but I am thankful to be able to say she is now nearly wel. Acting on the advice of the town doctor we took the baby to Minneapolis, where three doctors examined her in consultation and declared that she had spinal paralysis with small hope of recovery. Then I took her to Dr. Riggs, St. Paul, a noted specialist in nervous diseases, who examined her and said he thought it was joint trouble that was wrong with the baby. He gave me a note to Dr. Gillette, a specialist in diseases of the joints, who informed us that the disease was not paralysis but a rare disease, which resembled paralysis, and which could be cured. He at once arranged to place the baby in St. Luke's Hospital. At that time the baby was in intense suffering, and her legs and arms wer badly swollen. She weighed about 11 lbs. She was under Dr. Gillette's care in the hospital one month and then he advised us to bring her back here. She has been improving ever since Dr. Gillette commenced to treat her. She weighs 19 lbs., and she appears to be wel, but the doctor has advised us to continue his treatment til the fall.

On Monday I went to Lake City, Minn., and while there I obtained the inclosed medical certificate from the only doctor in this district with whom I hav personally had anything to do. This was in accordance with the request in your letter of May 13. I would like to hav had a thuro examination by Dr. Riggs, St. Paul, but I did not feel that I could afford the extra expense at this time. Dr. Kendall, St. John's N. F., gave me a very careful examination last summer and said he could not find any indication of an impaired constitution. Dr. Kendall is a

Dr. A. C. Dockstader

Lake City, July 19, 1897.

Rec'd July 26

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,

Sec. A. B. C. F. M.

J. B. Thompson

Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

Since I wrote you in May we hav had a very [illegible] our baby, but I am thankful to be able to say she is [illegible] Acting on the advice of the town doctor we took her [illegible] where three doctors examined her in consultation [illegible] had spinal paralysis with small hope of recovery. [illegible] Dr. Riggs, St. Paul, a noted specialist in nervous [illegible] ined her and said he thought it was joint trouble [illegible] the baby. He gave me a note to Dr. Gillette, a [illegible] of the joints, who informed us that the disease [illegible] a rare disease which resembled paralysis and which [illegible] at once arranged to place the baby in St. Luke's [illegible] the baby was in intense suffering, and her legs [illegible] swollen. She weighed about 11 lbs. She was under [illegible] in the hospital one month and then he advised [illegible] She has been improving ever since Dr. Gillette [illegible] She weighs 19 lbs., and she appears to be wel. [illegible] vised us to continue his treatment til the fall.

On Monday I went to Lake City, Minn., and [illegible] ed the inclosed medical certificate from the only [illegible] trist with whom I hav personally had anything [illegible] [illegible] an allopathist of considerable experience, and he has a wide reputation in the country where he practices.

I am planning to leav here Aug. 23d in order to take passage by the S.S. "Coptic" from S. F. on Sept. 2d. That wil be exactly twelv years from the date when I left San Francisco for China the first time. Treas. Wiggin writes to say that my passage has been secured by the "Coptic." It wil be very delightful to be able to accompany Rev. C. W. and Price on the long jurney from San Francisco to Shansi.

I hope the churches in this country wil soon realize what a loss they ar experiencing in not contributing more freely to the great work of missions. I am,

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

[illegible]

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Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Pekin, July 21. 1897.
Rec'd July 26.

2834 Chicago Avenue,
Minneapolis, Minn.,
Aug. 17, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I thank you for the kind wishes and hopes expressed in your favor of July 26th.

My arrangements ar made to start from this city for the Pacific coast the latter part of next week.

I am taking out a bicycle in the belief that it wil tend, after a little while, to greatly increase my usefulness in Shansi. It wil be a vast improvement on a donkey or a Chinese cart.

I regret that Mrs. Thompson can not go back with me ; But a year is not long passing away ; and she wil probably hav the company of Mr. and Mrs. Davis and perhaps also of Miss Bird when she goes out next fall.

Our little daughter has improved wonderfully. Dr. Gillette advises us to continue his treatment for some time. The good health now enjoyed by this little one is a splendid testimony to what medical skil can sometimes accomplish. Many persons, including several doctors when they saw the condition of the baby declared that she could not be cured. In fact, we ourselvs had almost come to think so too.

Within a few weeks we hav felt that the baby could probably be taken back this fall, tho we hav not asked the doctor for his opinion on that point as the prospectiv arrival of another made it undesirable for my wife to plan for the long overland jurney this fall.

I am deeply grateful for the rest I hav enjoyed in this country and I hope to out in a good term of service on my return. I am

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Minneapolis, Aug. 17, 1897

Rec'd Aug. 20

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.
REV. WALTER FREAR,
GENERAL AGENT FOR THE PACIFIC COAST,
Y. M. C. A. BL'DG., 4TH FLOOR,

San Francisco, Cal. Sept 1st, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

I arrived here at 10.15 o'clock this morning. The Coptic will sail at noon to-morrow. I presume Rev. C. W. Price and family are in the city but I have not had time to look them up yet.

I am sorry to see by the Missionary Herald that the contributions to the work are still far short of the needs. The churches do not realize what a fine opportunity is before them.

With kind regards, I am,
Very cordially yours,
J. B. Thompson.

San Francisco, Sept. 1, 1897

Rec'd Sept. 8

Tientsin, China, Oct. 4, 1897.
440

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

I arrived here, in company with the Prices, about 9 o'clock Sat. evening, Oct. 2d. We had fine weather and a smooth sea during the whole sea voyage. I am sorry to have to say that Mrs. Price was taken sick the first day out from Yokohama. She is slowly recovering, but it will be desirable for them to rest here a few days before undertaking the long inland journey.

I am glad and thankful to find myself in China again and I look forward with great interest to recommencing work in Shansi.

The friends here are very cordial.

I Arrc

Very truly yours.
J. B. Thompson.

Tientsin, Oct. 4, 1887.

Rec'd Nov. 12

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China,
Oct. 28, 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:–

"I am glad and thankful to be able to report my safe arrival here last night. I made the sixteen days' journey from Tientsin to this place entirely alone, without even a servant; and I am happy to state that I not only had no trouble anywhere, but I experienced uniform kindness from boatmen, innkeepers, and muleteers alike.

Mrs. Price was slowly improving when I left Tientsin.

China is actually falling into line in the matter of R.R. building. The Peking line is being extended to Paoting Fu. It is also said that a railroad is soon to be built to T'aiyuan Fu in this province. Post offices are being established, too.

The prospect for the

Tientsin, Oct. 7, 1897.

progress of the Kingdom is good. At Tientsin I heard Rev. C. A. Stanley give an inspiring account of a recent trip he had made to his country district. Others give similar testimony. The day for a large ingathering in our Shansi field cannot be far distant!

With earnest prayer for the prosperity of the Am. Bd. I am,

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson

Rec'd Dec. 22

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Ren Ts'un, Shansi, China, Nov. 22d, 1897

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Rec'd Dec. 28

Dear Dr. Smith :--

It is about a month since I arrived at this station and during that time I hav made a number of visits to the surrounding villages. My experience is that the villagers ar, if anything, more friendly than ever before. Many of the people recognize me at once and ask when I returned. This is all the more interesting to me because I now go among them in western dress, whereas I formerly wore the nativ costume. In this matter I hav acted on the impression that the time has come when it is no longer necessary or desirable to appear in Chinese garb.

The Sunday attendance here has dwindled down to practically nothing. It remains to be seen if it can be brought up again. It is pretty certain that any who may come in the future wil come from interest in the Gospel.

I hav a worthy co-laborer in the person of Mr. Ts'ui. He was formerly with Mr. Stimson and later was employed as teacher in the girls' school.

I feel that the visit home has greatly refreshed me. My helth appears to be better than it ever was before.

Believing, as I do, that the Gospel is stil the power of God unto salvation; if we ar not disturbed here, I see no reason why in a few more years there should not be an interesting work in this part of the field. "My word is a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces." I am,

Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Tientsin, Nov. 22-97
Rec'd Jan. 24-98

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"Holding Forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Ren Ts'un, Shansi, China, Jan. 5, 1898.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Secretary of the Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

The newspaper report of the Annual Meeting of the Board has come to hand and I am glad to see that the meeting was an enthusiastic one. It is evident, too, that the churches ar coming to the rescue again. I hope the Board wil soon feel authorized or warranted by the receipts to instruct its agents on the various mission fields to go forward in the development of the work. That wil be a more gratifying task than the one which has been laid upon the Pru. Committee for several years past.

The work in this Mission seems to be developing quite auspiciously. At least there is much to encourage at the two older stations. The school at T'aiku is not as large as it was a few years ago, owing to lack of funds, but excellent work is done with the pupils in attendance. Lately Mr. Williams and I, by request, examined a class there in the Gospel by Matthew and the result would hav done credit to a class in the English Bible in a Theological Seminary at home.

I find the people in this section as friendly as ever but beyond this there is no result to report. In the two months I was on the field in 1897 I was able to make forty-six visits to villages in the neighborhood. I baptized one person, who is in our employ, and who had been an inquirer about three years. I am,

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Secretary of the Am. Board,

Boston, U.S.A.

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Very truly yours,

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

REN T'SUN, Shansi, China, March 18, 1898

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,
Sec. of the Am. Board,
Tientsin, China.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I am delighted to lern from your letter to the secretary of the mission that we ar to hav a visit from you this summer. This is what we hav been hoping for during several years past. As a matter of fact nothing can take the place of personal observation. A visit, even of only a couple of weeks, wil giv you a better idea of our field and the work here than all the letters that hav been written about it since the mission was first established.

The inland jurney wil not be a luxury in June but it is absurd to say it cannot be made in that month. Mr. Hudson Taylor has made the jurney in mid-summer, and Mr. Clapp of this mission once went to the coast in June, accompanied by Mrs. Clapp. The rains ar expected about the middle of July, and during the rainy season, and for a couple of weeks afterwards, it is not desirable to travel

Ren Ts'un is the first point connected with our mission which you wil strike after reaching Shansi. By that time Mr. Williams and family wil be here, as they intend to spend the summer at this place.

Bidding you a harty welcome to China, and especially to Shansi, I am

Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson

"Holding forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Fen Chou Fu, Shansi, China, Jan. 5, 1898.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Secretary of the Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Fen Chou, Jan. 5 1898
Rec'd March 7

paragraph

The newspaper report of the annual meeting of the Board has come to hand and I am glad to see that the meeting was an enthusiastic one. It is evident, too, that the churches are coming to the rescue again. I hope the Board will soon feel authorized or warranted by the receipts to instruct its agents on the various mission fields to go forward in the development of the work. That will be a more gratifying task than the one which has been laid upon the Pru. Committee for several years past.

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SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

REN T'SUN, Shansi, China, March 18, 1898

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,
Sec. of the Am. Board,
Tientsin, China.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

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Bidding you a harty welcome to China, and especially to Shansi, I am

Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

REN T'SUN, Shansi, China, March 13, 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,
Sec. of the Am. Board,
Tientsin, China.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

I am delighted to lern from your letter to the secretary of the mission that we ar to hav a visit from you this summer. This is what we hav been hoping for during several years past. As a matter of fact nothing can take the place of personal observation. A visit, even of only a couple of weeks, wil giv you a better idea of our field and the work here than all the letters that hav been written about it since the mission was first established.

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Ren Ts'un is the first point connected with our mission which you wil strike after reaching Shansi. By that time Mr. Williams and family wil be here as they intend to spend the summer at this place.

Bidding you a harty welcome to China, and especially to Shansi, I am

Very cordially yours,

J. B. Thompson

Jen Tsun [illegible]
Filed July 30

"Holding Forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Ren Ts'un, Shansi, China, Sept.2d,1898.

Rev.Judson Smith,D.D.,
Sec.Am.Board,
Boston,U.S.A.

Dear Dr.Smith:--

I hope you hav reached home all right and that you ar none the worse for your experiences in China.

While Mr.Williams was absent at the coast I had the pleasure of supplying for him at one or two of the T'aiku out-stations. I especially enjoyed going to Tun Fang, where the work appears to hav taken a good start. The people at that place ar unusually cordial. They ar by no means ashamed of their faith and they hav taken hold of the idea of self-support. They leased property for use as a chapel and schoolroom and raised about one-third of the money among themselvs ; which was remarkably good considering that they ar all working men and farmers. We all feel encouraged by the outlook there.

The other day when I was riding along a man accosted me and asked me if I remembered giving him a tract in the fourth month, entitled "After Deth A Resurrection." He said, "If the teaching of that tract is true; it is an important affair." Then, turning around, he said, "Look at all these graves about here. Ar all who ar buried in them to be raised ?" It showed that the tract had set him to thinking. The man livs in a village not far from here and I hope to see him again.

I am glad to see by The Advance that Mr.Stimson has been appointed to the Micronesian Mission. Mr.and Mrs.Stimson wer as consecrated missionaries as ever came to Shansi. I did not know til some time after they had gone home how popular they both wer among the Chinese. It was simply small-mindedness on the part of certain members of this mission which kept them from returning to it, and the mission suf-

"Holding Forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Fen Ts'un, Shansi, China, Sept.24,1898.

Rev.Judson Smith,D.D.,
Sec.Am.Board,
Boston,U.S.A.

Dear Dr.Smith:--

I hope you hav reached home all right and that you ar none the worse for your experiences in China.

While Mr.Williams was absent at the coast I had the pleasure of supplying for him at one or two of the T'aiku out-stations. I especially enjoyed going to Tun Fang, where the work appears to hav taken a good start. The people at that place ar unusually cordial. They ar by no means ashamed of their faith and they hav taken hold of the idea of self-support. They leased property for use as a chapel and schoolroom and raised about one-third of the money among themselvs; which was remarkably good considering that they ar all working men and farmers. We all feel encouraged by the outlook there.

The other day when I was riding along a man accosted me and asked me if I remembered giving him a tract in the fourth month, entitled "After Death A Resurrection." He said, "If the teaching of that tract is true, it is an important affair." Then, turning around, he said, "Look at all these graves about here. Ar all who ar buried in them to be raised?" It showed that the tract had set him to thinking. The man livs in a village not far from here and I hope to see him again.

I am glad to see by The Advance that Mr.Stimson has been appointed to the Micronesian Mission. Mr. and Mrs.Stimson wer as consecrated missionaries as ever came to Shansi. I did not know till some time after they had come home how popular they both wer among the Chinese. It was simply small-mindedness on the part of certain members of this mission which kept them from returning to it, and the mission suffers in consequence. I am not a little surprised to lern that Mr.Davis has been detained at home on the strength of a clandestin letter from Mr.Atwater. I hope the Board is not going to place its missionaries at the mercy of every Tom, Dick, or Harry who desires to slander them. I understand that Dr.Atwood has followed Mr.Davis quite diligently with a reformed diagnosis of his disease of five years ago. The mission wil be much the poorer for the absence of Mr.and Mrs.Davis. Mrs.Davis did a splendid work among the women and girls which her non-return wil make it impossible to follow up. It is a very short-sighted policy which thus deprives the mission of its experienced members. One result is, less work done, and another result is, more discontent in the mission itself.

Dr. Atwood informs me that you expressed a desire to see this place given up in favor of Ch'ing Yuan, which is five miles farther from T'aiku than Ren Ts'un is. But Mr.Clapp and Mr.Williams claim that the Ch'ing Yuan region can also be worked from T'aiku. My assistant here says there ar two hundred villages within a half-day of this place; and it is not probable that the most of them wil be evangelized for many years to come. But there wil be no one to go to a new station now, as I do not care to go alone to a new field. At the same time I cannot but think it strange that you expressed yourself so emfatically to Dr.Atwood, as I hav understood from Mr.Price that you asked him essentially the same questions with regard to distance, etc., that you put to Dr.Atwood, and yet you did not express an opinion to me on the matter when I wrote so fully from Repin before coming back. At the same time it is to be hoped that everything wil work out for the best. I am

Very cordially yours

J. B. Thompson.

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Ren Ts'un, Shansi, China, Nov. 11th, 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

I am happy to be able to report the safe arrival of my wife and babies at this place on the evening of Nov. 1st. I met them at Tientsin, after the hardest jurney I ever made in my life. It rained nearly every day while I was on the way down, so that the roads wer in a terrible state. We made a fairly good trip coming back, having been detained only one day by rain. We ar thankful to be all here, in good helth, and in hope of being able to do a good work.

Our friends of the Shou Yang Mission experienced a disastrous calamity on Tuesday of this week in the deth by accident of Miss Brown, one of their missionaries. Miss Brown and Miss Shekleton, another of their missionaries, went out to visit a village some three miles distant. They went by ordinary open cart, accompanied by two nativ women and ful of hope for a good opportunity of preaching the Gospel to the people. Everything went wel until within sight of the village when on going round the bend of a stream the cart overturned and fel down the embankment--about 12 or 15 ft--into the stream and mud below. So sudden was the catastrofe that not a sound escaped from any one. The nativ women wer thrown out at the back of the cart Miss Shekleton was thrown amongst the mules' feet into the water but Miss Brown was thrown under the cart and pressed out of sight by the weight of the cart. It was some minutes ere any one passed, but when passers-by at length appeared they wer regardless of the entreaties and agonizing appeal for help and went on. More than an hour passed before a sufficient number of people gathered and only after the usual bargaining for money would they be persuaded to render any assistance. At last 13 men lifted the cart on one side and eventually drew Miss Brown out of the mud, as she was then sunk far

out of sight. Meanwhile a messenger had run to Shou Yang to tel the Rev. Mr. Johnston of the accident and he immediately galloped to the spot, but all human aid was then of no avail to Miss Brown.

I think this accident is the most terrible one that has ever oc occurred to missionaries in the North of China. It gave occasion, too, to illustrate the meaner side of the Chinese character, in that no one would render assistance until after a bargain was struck.

We ar having splendid weather this fall.

Trusting you ar wel, I am

Very cordially yours

J. B. Thompson

Rec'd Jan. 4, 1899

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"Holding Forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Ren Ts'un, Shansi, China, Jan. 19th, 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec.Am.Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr.Smith :--

Your favor of Nov.4th reached me by our latest courier. I am glad to be assured that missionaries of the Board wil not be sacrificed on the suggestion of individual colleags. My letter of Sept.2d was prompted by the statement made after Dr.Atwood and Mr.Williams returned from the coast that before their interview with you and on the Strengh of a letter received from an individual member of this mission you had sent a cablegram to the Board to keep Mr.Davis at home another year, and that the cablegram had been supplemented by a letter, after the interview, to the same effect.

With reference to stations, the conditions ar not the same in this mission as in the N.C.Mission. If we worked on their lines it would not be possible to hav more than one station without going into places alredy occupied. And that is true with regard to opening another center now: there is not a strategic point left that is not worked by other missionaries. Years ago when we might hav occupied Ping Yao and other important points we fel to quarreling among ourselvs while others went in and took possession. As a result we ar circumscribed with no good center on either hand. Ching Yuan is only five miles farther from Taiku than this place is, but we hav to cross the work of another mission to reach it, while the section which Dr.Atwood has recently opend as an outstation had been worked for years by other missionaries who hav now ceased to go there simply because we crowded them out. Mr. Clapp has opened a work 100 miles from Taiku over a road that is said to be impassable for carts or mule-litters' and which can only be reached on the backs of animals or on foot, but even that place is

"Holding forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Fen Chou, Shansi, China, Jan. 13th, 1898.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

Your favor of Nov. 4th reached me by our latest courier. I am glad to be assured that missionaries of the Board will not be sacrificed on the suggestion of individual colleagues. My letter of Sept. 28 was prompted by the statement made after Dr. Atwood and Mr. Williams returned from the coast that before their interview with you and on the strength of a letter received from an individual member of this mission you had sent a cablegram to the Board to keep Mr. Davis at home another year, and that the cablegram had been supplemented by a letter, after the interview, to the same effect.

With reference to stations, the conditions are not the same in this mission as in the N.C. mission. If we worked on their lines it would not be possible to have more than one station without going into places already occupied. And that is true with regard to opening another center now: there is not a strategic point left that is not worked by other missionaries. Years ago when we might have occupied Ping Yao and other important points we fell to quarreling among ourselves while others went in and took possession. As a result we are circumscribed with no good center on either hand. Ching Yuan is only five miles farther from Taiku than this place is, but we have to cross the work of another mission to reach it, while the section which Dr. Atwood has recently opened as an outstation had been worked for years by other missionaries who have now ceased to go there simply because we crowded them out. Mr. Clapp has opened a work 100 miles from Taiku over a road that is said to be impassable for carts or mule-litters, and which can only be reached on the backs of animals or on foot, but even that place is within ten miles of a regular station of an Eng.mission. Consequently I hear that some among us think the work at that point ought to be turned over to the other mission. It is certainly not desirable to make it a station of this mission.

As a matter of fact it is impossible to get a two-thirds vote in this mission in favor of any other point, except as a comprromise, and I for one refuse to go anywhere on a compromise vote. At the last annual meeting Mr.Price asked to be located at Ching Yuan but his request was refused and the main reason given was that Ching Yuan is too near Taiku. Mr.Price is the only man in the mission that wants to go to a new station. The rest of us ar unwilling to do so, one reason why I do not want to go, is the fact that wherever a missionary settles it is impossible to get any results within at least eight or ten years. In looking up a station it is necessary to consider many points, as population, market, water, helthful locality, dry buildings, etc., all of which exist at this place and not combined at any other point in our field. This is the only place where missionaries can reside all the year round without finding it necessary to make a change for helth. Personally, I cannot see why it would not be as easy to follow up any work that might open from this point as wel as from any other. There ar two hundred villages within a circuit of half a day, and one of those villages is the market town for one hundred more, the latter being in the mountains. As to overlapping, the work is bound to overlap, ~~is~~ no~~t~~ matter how far apart we get. At the same time I never thought of having two large stations near together. I supposed there would be three families at Taiku and two here. Our plan here was to do village work chiefly and I hoped to establish a no. of day-schools in the larger villages. The first attempt was not a success as the teachr proved to be a scion of the House of the Great Adversary. Since then there hav been no funds for such work. It takes a long time to make an impression by preaching alone. After these years of work in the villages about here there is only one place where I am ever invited into a house or store. At another place there was an opening but the

man there who was interested died, and so that door was closed again. Until recently, the people appeared to be becoming more friendly year by year but now they hoot after me a good deal, probably because they know of the reaction at Peking.

Last year I requested the mission on two occasions to take definit action with regard to this place so that I might lay the matter before the Pru.Com. in time to prevent, if desirable, the return of my wife. This the mission ungraciously refused to do, and when Dr. Atwood and Mr. Williams returned from the coast and announced that you had decided to close up this station, it was too late to communicate with my wife on the subject. All this convinces me that it was quite a mistake for me to return to the mission; especially as when I communicated my views to you in my letters from Pepin, Wis., you did not express your opinion. I am

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson

P.S.--With reference to the statement made above that R.Ts'un is the only place where missionaries can liv all the year round, I may say that altho missionaries hav resided at Liman Chuang the year thru it is not considered a helthful town. It is more than probable that even after all the new houses ar built outside of Taiku city a change wil be found to be necessary in the summer time.--J.B.T.

Shasi Jan. 13-1897

Recd Mch. 14

"Holding Forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Ren Tsun, Shansi, China, March 15th, 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith:--

I am greatly pleased to lern that Mr. Davis has been duly appointed to return in the fall. It is stated that the Pru. Com. hav adopted a rule to the effect that all missionaries who ar permitted to go home with the expectation of coming back shal be returned to their fields. If so, it is an excellent rule and it would prevent all secret letter writing. It would be fair to every body. Such a rule years ago would hav brought Mr. Stimson back to the work to which he and Mrs. Stimson had consecrated their lives.

I am afraid the decision to close up this place wil mean that we cannot hope to accomplish anything during this term. Of course we cannot plan for any work here, and no two members of the mission ar agreed on any other point. This is such a helthful location that one of the English missionaries has told me that his society wil buy this property when we vacate it. That means that we ar compelled to move farther away in order that another mission may come nearer to us. Personally, I believ that society wil act wisely if it buys this property as the town is the most helthful in this region, with good water, a good market, and hundreds of villages in the neighborhood. One village, 7 miles distant, is the market town for fully one hundred mountain villages. Unless some other society takes up that work those villages wil not be evangelized fifty years hence. Sec. Clark's paper, pub. in the Report for 1891, covers this point. In endevoring to work along the lins suggested in that paper our efforts ar now frowned upon.

There is nothing more injurious to mission work, among intelli-

gent nativs, than to be constantly changing our plans. Several nativs, including Mr. Liu of Taiku, hav said to me, "You foreners ar exceedingly unwise, to be constantly shifting from place to place." It ~~gains~~ takes many years to gain even the respect of the Chinese. Just as we wer reaching that point here we ar told, "Get you gone, the Lord hath done with you."

But the unfortunate thing is, no one has any place in mind. Ching Yuan is five miles farther from Taiku than we ar. There is only one member of the mission who favors it in preference to Ren Tsun, and as he was the first to suggest this region to me and was a member of the committee who reported in favor of making this a station and subsequently signed a request to the P.Com. for $1000 to purchase property here (which request was granted) I cannot now allow myself to be influenced by his opinion. There is not a single point left to us that is not in the neighborhood of some other missionaries or their assistants. Whatever point is mentioned the claim is raised that "it can be worked from Taiku," which is equally true of Fencho Fu, which is only 53 miles from Taiku and which certainly, according to the new idea for this mission, ought not to be a separate station. Besides there ar workers from other missions all around us even there.

Personally, I cannot conscientiously appeal for the necessary funds to transfer us to a new place, as I am confident that if the Christians at home knew the facts they would not giv the money. For one thing, we ought not to go without a doctor and as Taiku and Fencho Fu ar both without doctors we cannot hope that three wil be appointed to this mission within a year or two, unless something marvelous happens. I can't believ the Almighty wil send us a shower of doctors just in order to keep another mission from growing.

At this place not more than 1000 dollars would hav been required to furnish houses for two families and accommodation for the work for fifty years to come. It wil take every cent of $10,000 to locate elsewhere and then no place that can be provided would ever be equal to this. Nearly all the repairing necessary for one family has been done here but when we move it wil a missionary's time for a year ent nativs, than to be constantly changing our plans. Several nativs, including Mr. Liu of Taian, hav said to me, "You foreners ar exceedingly unwise, to be constantly shifting from place to place." It ~~[illegible]~~ takes many years to gain even the respect of the Chinese. Just as we wer reaching that point here we ar told, "Get you gone, the Lord hath done with you!"

But the unfortunate thing is, no one has any place in mind. Ching Yuan is five miles farther from Taian than we ar. There is only one member of the mission who favors it in preference to Ren Sun, and as he was the first to suggest this region to me and was a member of the committee who reported in favor of making this a station and subsequently signed a request to the P.Com. for $1000 to purchase property here (which request was granted) I cannot now allow myself to be influenced by his opinion. There is not a single point left to us that is not in the neighborhood of some other missionaries or their assistants. Whatever point is mentioned the claim is raised that "it can be worked from Taian," which is equally true of Fencho Fu, which is only [illegible] miles from Taian and which certainly, according to the new idea for this mission, ought not to be a separate station. Besides there ar workers from other missions all around us even there.

Personally, I cannot conscientiously appeal for the necessary funds to transfer us to a new place, as I am confident that if the Christians at home knew the facts they would not giv the money. For one thing, we ought not to go without a doctor and as Taian and Fencho Fu ar both without doctors we cannot hope that three wil be appointed to this mission within a year or two, unless something marvelous happens. I can't believ the Almighty wil send us a shower of doctors just in order to keep another mission from growing.

At this place not more than 2000 dollars would hav been required to furnish houses for two families and accommodation for the work for fifty years to come. It wil take every cent of $10,000 to locate elsewhere and then no place that can be provided would ever be equal to this. Nearly all the repairing necessary for one family has been done here but when we move it wil a missionary's time for a year or more to make the places fit for families to occupy and subsequently foren houses must be built. And that suggests the one great drawback here--we cannot make pathetic appeals for money with which to build houses. We cannot honestly say the houses ar undermining our helth, etc. Mr.Davis after his severe ilness at Fencho Fu improved right along after coming here, which was the reason why the mission voted him here permanently. Other families of our own and other missions ~~for~~ hav also recuperated here at different times. No other houses in the mission ar as dry as these.

As it is we ar compelled to take a step which is against our judgment, and against the judgment of half the present members of the mission, and to call for funds which I certainly believ to be unnecessary and for a purpose to which with a knowledge of all the facts I would not contribute if I wer at home and for which I could not make an appeal to others. Under these circumstances I expect to apply at the forthcoming annual meeting for a grant of one thousand dollars to enable us to carry out the wishes of those who hav commanded us to go. I am

Very truly yours,

J. B. Thompson

Ans. [illegible]

Rec'd May 1

Why not stay,
Dr. [illegible]

Paiku, Shansi, China
Aug 31st 1899.

Resolved – That Mr. Thompson be allowed to return to the U. S. with his two children this fall & that he be permitted to charge his full allowance of salary up to the time of leaving the field.

Signed – D. H. Clapp
G. L. Williams
C. W. Price
E. R. Atwater

Taiku, Shansi, China
Aug 31st 1899.

Resolved — That Geo. Thompson be allowed to return to the U. S. with his two children this fall & that he be permitted to charge his full allowance of salary up to the time of leaving the field.

Signed — D. H. Clapp
G. L. Williams
C. W. Price
E. R. Atwater

Rec'd Oct. 24.

"Holding Forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: [redacted], CHINA. Via Peking & Paoting Fu.

Ren Ts'un, Shansi, China, Sept. 2d, 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Smith :--

Before this letter reaches you, I expect to be on my way back to the U.S. Notwithstanding my strong dislike to going to a new station, after our last an.meeting I commenced to make preparations to carry out your wishes. I made a trip to the hils with that in view, but it is now certain that I am not to hav any part in carrying out that program.

When I returned from the hils, I found our baby sick unto deth and while we wer on the way to the cemetery at T'ai Yuan Fu her sister was taken sick. For seventeen days her life ~~hal~~ was in the balance, but God at length graciously spared her, thanks, under the divine hand, to the great skil of Dr. Lovitt of the Eng. Shou Yang Mission. After coming home, on the 24th of July a baby was born to us, and on Aug. 23d my wife died. Dr. Lovitt says that prompt medical attendance would probably hav saved both little Alma and my wife. The latter was taken with inflammation of the bowels, which later ran into peritonitis.

It is the uniform opinion of the members of this mission, so far as it has been expressed to me, and also of the members of neighboring missions, that I ought to take the babies home this fall. If I stay here it means that one lady must giv practically all her time to the care of the baby, while it would take a good deal of my time to look after the little girl. Under these circumstances, I deem it best to carry out my wife's wish, expressed on her dying bed, and take the children home to her sister. Mrs. Williams has kindly offered to help on the jurney. I am

Very truly yours,

Jas. B. Thompson

"Holding forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: ~~Tientsin~~, CHINA. Via Peking & Paoting Fu.

Fen Chou, Shansi, China, Sept.22,1893.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec.Am.Board,
Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr.Smith :--

Before this letter reaches you, I expect to be on my way back to the U.S. Notwithstanding my strong dislike to going to a new station after our last annual meeting I commenced to make preparations to carry out your wishes. I made a trip to the hills with that in view, but it is now certain that I am not to have any part in carrying out that program.

When I returned from the hills, I found our baby sick unto death and while on our way to the cemetery at Tai Yuen Fu her sister was taken sick. For seventeen days her life was in the balance, but God at length graciously spared her, thanks, under the divine hand, to the great skill of Dr.Lovitt of the Eng.Shou Yang Mission. After coming home, on the 26th of July a baby was born to us, and on Aug.22d my wife died. Dr.Lovitt says that prompt medical attendance would probably have saved both little Alma and my wife. The latter was taken with inflammation of the bowels, which later ran into peritonitis.

Rec'd Oct. 16.

It is the uniform opinion of the members of this mission, so far as it has been expressed to me, and also of the members of neighboring missions, that I ought to take the babies home this fall. If I stay here it means that one lady must give practically all her time to the care of the baby, while it would take a good deal of my time to look after the little girl. Under these circumstances, I deem it best to carry out my wife's wish, expressed on her dying bed, and take the children home to her sister. Mrs.Williams has kindly offered to help on the journey. I am

Very truly yours,

Jas. B. Thompson

Pepin, Wis.,
Dec. 20, 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

I thank you for your kind letter of Dec. 1st, and for the sympathy therein expressed. The journey home was certainly a very hard one. I am only now beginning to feel rested.

The way does not seem clear to me to resume mission work in China. To do so would take me away from the babies, so that they would never know me again; and, in view of the uncertain prospect before me in Shansi I do not feel called upon to take that step. Besides that, my wife's sister, Mrs. Warren, is the only person with whom I would

Pepin, Wis.,
Dec. 20, 1899.

Dr. Judson Smith, D.D.
Sec. Am. Bd.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I thank you for your kind letter of Dec. 15 and for the sympathy therein expressed. I was home now, as things [illegible] that [illegible] I am only [illegible] expressed. The way has not been clear to me to resume this [illegible] work in China. To do so would take me away from the babies so that they would never know me again. And in view of the uncertain prospect before me in China I do not feel called upon to take that step. Besides that my wife's sister, Mrs. Harris, is the only person with whom I would care to leave the children; but she is not in good health, so that the sole responsibility of taking care of them should not be left with her.

I thank you for the suggestion about an allowance. As I have no means of income, I shall be glad of the regular allowance for a month or two, until I can find some work to do.

Again thanking you for your kind letter, I am

Very cordially yours.

J. B. Thompson.

Peking Dec. 20, 1899

Rec'd Dec. 26

Dec. 9

Rev. J. B. Thompson

452

"Holding Forth the Word of Life."

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

P. O. Address: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Ripon, Wis., ~~Shansi~~, ~~China~~, Dec. 12, 1899.

Rec'd Dec. 15

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Sec. Am. Bd.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Thru the watchful care of a gracious Providence, and the invaluable assistance of Mrs. Williams, my babies and I reached this place in safety at 11.15 a.m. on Sat. last.

It was with keen regret, but without misgivings, that I turned my back upon Shansi with no expectation of ever taking up the

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hea

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t th
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n

work there again. ourteen of the best ears of my life have een given to that field.

I cannot fail lways to take a deep interest in the work the Am. Bd. and specially in the work i Shansi. I am

Very truly yours.

J. B. Thompson.

Mrs. D'Etta H. Thompson
453—459

Jen Tsun, Shansi, China.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D. Sec of A B C F M.

Boston, Mass: Dec. 23, '92.

Dear Sir:

Your letters of July 14th and August 12th recd some time since. You will readily understand that the last few months have been busy ones and will I hope excuse delay in writing. I left Fen Chow fu for Tientsin Sept 21st. traveling with Mr and Mrs. Morgan of the English Baptist Mission from Shih tieh. Had the pleasure of meeting Mr and Mrs. Atwater and Mr. and Mrs. Williams on the way and we had an '78 Reunion at the best inn on the road. The friends at the coast were exceedingly kind to Mr. Thompson and me and we enjoyed our stay there very much although the recent death of Mrs. Ashe, Mr. Stanley's daughter, made our visit less joyful than it would otherwise have been. Since we came back, repairs, necessary to make this summer house inhabitable for winter, have occupied our time. The house will soon be quite comfortable and we hope to give our time to the work.

Every thing is about as usual in the mission. It is a great pleasure to welcome Mr + Mrs. Williams and Mr. + Mrs. Atwater and children to our work. Mr. Williams is able to conduct the Sabbath school when Mr Clapp is absent and Mrs. Williams is teaching the women on the place. Mr. Atwater is busy with his studies and Mrs. Atwater studies what she can. Mr. Clapp visits Chē wang: Mr. Liu's village, once a month and Mrs. Clapp accompanies him. Mr. Clapp conducts a service for men and Mrs. Clapp teaches the women. Mr. Clapp also takes this opportunity to examine into the condition of the day school taught by a Christian native under his direction. Mr Liu preaches there once a month, alternating his visit with Mr. Clapp's. Miss Bird alternates with Mrs. Clapp in teaching the women there. The school in Taiku is prospering and has much better quarters than ever before. Miss Bird is teaching geography music and Martyn's Evidences of Christianity in the school and enjoys her work very much. Dr. Goldsbury's clinics are better attended than ever before and he now sees patients three times a week. Mrs. Goldsbury teaches the women who stay on the place for treatment and helps in the Sabbath school.

"The villages around Wen Chou fu are opening for woman's work. Mrs. Davis visits two or three villages as often as possible and sometimes Mrs. Price accompanies her. There have been two women and two girls on Mrs. Davis' place this fall for about three weeks & Mrs. Davis taught them each day. She has been unable to teach the women in the hospital this fall. Some one is very much needed to do this work and relieve Mr Price of the school so he can do village work. Meanwhile Mr. Price is occupied with school-work and does what village work he can. Dr. Atwood has his hands full with his hospital and dispensary work, daily prayers, and Sunday services. Mr Tu, an inquirer whom Dr. Atwood expects to baptize this winter has proved a most efficient helper preaching to the men in the hospital and some times taking charge of ~~of~~ Sunday service. He also often accompanies Mrs Davis to the villages.

"We have about twelve boys in the school here. Mr. Thompson and I recently visited a village five miles from here where Mr. Kang an inquirer, lives. This man has attended service regularly for a year & seems a sincere seeker after the truth. As a foreign lady had probably never visited this village before the whole village came out to see us. It is impossible to teach them under such circumstances but we purpose to visit this village and one two "li" farther on regularly and teach the men and women who are willing to learn after their curiosity is satisfied. We can teach but we can not win them from their sins. We earnestly desire that the Christians at home pray that the Spirit of God awaken these sin deadened hearts to a desire for deliverance and peace with God."

Jen Tsun, Dec. 23, 1892

Recd March 11

Yours Respectfully

D'Etta H. Thompson

Sec. of Mission

Mrs. J. B. Thompson.

Jen Tsun Shansi. China Mar. 29th 1893.

Rev Judson Smith D.D. Sec. of A.B.C.F.M.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Soon, perhaps to-day, the sad news of Dr. Goldsbury's death will reach you. It does not seem possible that he has gone from us forever. His genial nature and simple, child-like faith made him, at all times, a most helpful co-laborer. Humanly speaking, it seems as though his death must greatly retard the work. Medical work seems almost a necessity to break down the prejudices of the people and open the way for evangelistic work. We earnestly request that another physician be sent as soon as possible.

Your letters of Nov 21st and 30th and the Appropriations for '93 rec'd recently. We are glad to know that the Prudential Committee has recommended the granting of $1000.00 for buying and repairing property in Jen Tsun and $2500.00 for a hospital in Taiku.

By availing ourselves of the permission

to readjust the $550.00 subtracted from the appropriations requested the amount granted will be, on the whole, quite satisfactory.

Miss Bird writes me that Miss Partridge has asked to be sent here. Miss Bird certainly very much needs help and we wish two more young ladies might be found to take up school work and woman's work at Fen Chow fu.

Respectfully Yours

D'Etta H. Thompson

Sec. of Mission.

Sen Tien, March 29, 1893

Rec'd May 23

Fen Chow Shansi China
June 22d., 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, Sec. of A.B.C.F.M.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letters of Mar. 24th & 29th are at hand. We are glad to hear that the money for the Fen Chou fu school has been granted.

You will see by the report of the Annual Meeting sent a few weeks ago, that steps have already been taken toward organizing a church. I think Mr. Clapp is training the Christians in Taiku to give liberally yet we could hardly expect them to erect a house of worship if there were none provided. As a matter of fact the Taiku chapel is a very good one and will be all the church will need for years to come. All of the men baptized, and there were not more than six, are in our employ. The highest wages paid is $8.00 per month and most of them receive but $3.00. Mr. Clapp's report shows that the Christians have furnished lamps etc. for the chapel.

We are expecting Mr & Mrs. Clapp out here soon to stay for two months and look forward to having them with us with pleasure.

If a physician and at least two young ladies can come to us this fall it will be a great help in the work. We hardly expect another family but very much wish that the way might open for some one to take up the work at Ching Yuan a most promising opening. Mr. Thompson and I have been there three times this spring but can not go any more for the present on account of the heat and bad roads. The work among women there is more promising than at any of our stations and more are constantly becoming interested as they go to Dr. Atwood for treatment & remain in the hospital for a few weeks and are taught.

Miss Bird, Mr Williams and Mr Atwater have just been taking examinations and Mr. Farthing the examiner, spoke very favorably of all of the papers. The report is not yet in.

Your letter stating the action of the Board in regard to publications of missionaries was rec'd to-day and has been sent to the members of the Mission.

Yours. Respectfully

D'Etta H. Thompson.

Sec. of Mission.

Rec'd Aug. 17

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Shansi, China, Aug. 18th 1893

Rev. Judson Smith, Sec. of A.B.C.F.M.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letter in regard to the Geary Exclusion Act has been rec'd and sent to the members of the Mission. By this course I send a list of Mission and private property and the names of the members of the Mission. to our Consul at Tientsin.

The Com. of Estimates marked with a cross certain items wh. we could do without and still carry on our work. The Rep. of Com. on Estimates, minus these items, was intended to constitute the Contingent List. The items marked were as follows:

Teacher, Mr Clapp.	40.00	Gen. Contingent	250.00
Repairs, " "	50.00	New Work	150.00
Touring, Mr Atwater.	25.00		

Miss Bird's money for touring & part of the other money for touring will be used for woman's work. Mrs. Davis hopes to start a Girls School this fall but the money for that must come out of the contingent fund. No request for money for that work was made because at the time of Annual Meeting it was uncertain whether she would be able to take up that work

Mr & Mrs. Clapp have returned to the city & will open the school in about two days. We have had a very pleasant summer and regret that, probably, they will not be with us next summer.

With Christian greetings to you & your associates I am,

Yours. Respectfully
D'Etta W. Thompson,
Sec. of Mission.

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Mrs. J. B. Thompson
Shansi, Aug. 18, 1893
Filed Oct. 16

SHANSI MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.
P. O. ADDRESS: TIENTSIN, CHINA.

Jen Tsun Shansi, China, Sept. 6th 1893

Dr. Judson Smith, Sec. of A.B.C.F.M.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 3rd rec'd by last courier. The resolution of which you speak "That the treasurer be authorized to use the unexpended balance etc" was voted in view of your letter of Nov. 30th 1892 which says:—
"The total amount voted is $12.270.00, which is $550 dollars less than the amount of the regular estimates submitted by the Mission. This amount has been taken off in four items, three of them incidentals and one the supernumerary grant for hardware asked for Dr. Atwood. It is rather arbitrary work diminishing estimates submitted by the mission, but so far as I can judge these were the items which could be best spared. If the mission thinks otherwise and can readjust it so as to let the amount subtracted represent other items it will doubtless be accepted here." The resolution is not very explicit but it was intended simply to carry out your suggestion. It is understood by all the members of the mission that all resolutions in regard to money matters are always subject to the approval of the Board.

The mission press has never been and never will be any thing but a burden for some one to store.

Had the mission been consulted it would never have been bought. It was broken coming out and two attempts, at least, have been made to have the broken part replaced but without success. Mr Davis made a careful drawing of the part wanted, yet that which was sent would not answer. The type, too, is not suitable. There are not enough common characters to set up the Lord's Prayer altho a considerable money has been expended in type. This of course, could be remedied by buying more type. The money already expended on the press would supply the mission with books for twenty years. But even if the press were in working order we can get printing done cheaper at the coast than to print for ourselves. Mr. Thompson lately had head lines printed on two reams of paper at the coast — a most satisfactory manner for less than $.60, while printing on one ream in Boston cost $1.25. In view of these facts it was thought best to sell the press for something, if we could, to a Chinaman who would perhaps buy it out of curiosity and to excite the wonder & admiration of his friends.

In a previous letter you ask for books written by the members of the mission. There has been but one written I think and that is Mr Price's book. It will soon be in print & I will send you three copies.

Yours Respectfully

D'Etta H. Thompson Sec. of M

Rec'd Nov. 1.

Jen Tsun, Shansi China

Rev. Judson Smith D.D. Sec. of A.B.C.F.M. May. 23. 1895.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Through some mistake, either Dr. Atwood's or mine, the medical report for the year '93 is *not* on file among the Sec.'s papers. If two were sent to Boston by mistake will you kindly send one back. If there is but one there, will you please have it copied and sent to the present Sec. Mr. Atwater.

As you will have heard ere this reaches you, we had the pleasure of entertaining the friends at Annual Meeting in Jen Tsun this year. We had beautiful weather and all I think, enjoyed the meeting very much.

We hope you may *soon* be able to send us two young ladies for Fen Chow fu and one for Jen Tsun to be with Mrs Davis during our absence at home. Mrs. Atwater expects to go to Fen Chow fu this fall, but will not be able to teach the women in the hospital, I fear, because of her home duties, and so expects to start a girl's school. This work she hopes to be able to carry on because it will not necessitate

her leaving home. This leaves the women in the hospital with no woman to work for them as both Mrs. Price and Mrs. Atwood feel that they can not undertake it. A young lady who could give all or part of her time to this work & then follow the women to their homes would find a most profitable and pleasant work and one that is most fundamental for no family is Christian till the mother is converted. Then, too, we need a young lady to help Mr. Price in the school, so he can have more leisure for other work, now left undone.

We watch anxiously for news from home & hope each month the outlook may be more hopeful. It will be a pleasure to greet Mr. & Mrs. Clapp again after their visit in America & we hope they will surely come back this fall.

Yours truly

D'Etta H. Thompson.

Rec'd July 11

H. D.
1-6
6-6-98

Pepin, Wis. June 2d. 1898.

459

Charles H. Daniels D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Daniels:

Will you please
form me about the most
sible route to China this fall.?
ll the Spanish War make any
ference about going by the
Francisco ships.? I think
Belgic sails Sept. 3d. & that is
ut the time I ought to start
w not to have it too cold
ng over the mountains for
children. I would prefer
ng by San Fran. if it is just
safe & the Bd has no objection.
ught I to buy a ticket right thro'
m ~~San Fra.~~ St. Paul to Shanghai
shall I use my Clergy permit

San Fran. & then buy a steamer
et from there?
Is it probable that Mr & Mrs Davis
l soon know whether they are
reappointed so as to go out
s year?

Respectfully Yours
Detta H. Thompson.

Mrs D'Etta Thompson
Pepin. Wis

ar.

George L. Williams
460—512

Mr. Geo. L. Williams.

Rec'd Feb. 3.

Oberlin, O. Feb. 2nd 1891.

ev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Boston Mass.

Dear Sir:-

There are a few uestions I wish to ask in regard to he preparation for sailing to my rk in Shansi.

At your suggestion I made inquirie to my Outfit of Rev F. M. Price, e writes that it will not be safe depend on buying anything out of e Mission stores now in Shansi. ev. D. H. Clapp writes from the field the same effect.

Rev. Mr Sheffield tells me that a x of goods, necessary for our se immediately on arrival, uld be sent in March. at time is not far distant.

ill so early a shipment be necessary?
Again; I had expected to get my
fe insured, but after reading the
Manual" on that point, I have
ought best to speak of it to you.
Both Mr Clapp and Mr Price advise
e to do so and say the salary is
mply sufficient.
gain, I have a debt of $160.00
Mr Clapp advises me to pay it out
my Outfit" money, and live with
ess the first year. Would I be
llowed to use a portion of my
00.00 as I see fit in this respect?
gain, To what extent does the Board
y travelling expenses for visiting
me friends, &c, before sailing?

I am well aware of the financial
ondition of the Board and have
elt that I ought to sacrifice my

wn pleasure, but my people from
hom I have been long separated, looks
t it somewhat differently.
hey live in Connecticut and New Jersey.

I fear that I may seem, by these
uestions, to be too anxious for per-
nal comfort and pleasure.
My desire is to do that which
ill best prepare me for the work
hich He will have me do.

I am,

Faithfully yours.

Geo. L. Williams.

Oberlin O. March 13. 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Sir;-

On the advice of
Mr Price and Mrs Sheffield it seems
t to Miss Moon and myself to send
part of our Outfit by the March
hipment to insure the arrival of
tain necessary articles before our
wn arrival. I inclose the list
n a separate sheet.

Can "the Competent Man" mentioned
n the Manual purchase and forward?.
If ~~I~~ so will you please forward to
e the bill of the goods at your
onvenience?.

am not quite clear as to what is
ncluded in the Outfit, but I suppose
he Butter, Groceries, & Hardware, &

ndered before or when we go out ill come under the salary and not nder the Outfit. Am I right?.

I remain,

Obediently Yours.

Geo. L. Williams.

Geo. L. Williams

Oberlin, March 13, 1891

Rec'd March 16

Oberlin. O. April 1. 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith,
1 Somerset St, Boston.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your
quest while in Oberlin, I write to notify you
to the time of our departure for Shansi.
e will be ready to sail from San Francisco
n the 6th of August or thereabouts. If the
terests of the cause demand another date, we
ll adjust our plans accordingly.
I think of no other point in regard to which you
ished a decision at the present time.

Respectfully Yours,
Geo. L. Williams.

Geo L Williams
Oberlin, March 13, 1891
Rec'd March 16

Oberlin, April 1, 1891
Rec'd Apr. 4.

Oberlin. O. April 15. 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Sir:- In your favor of the 16th ult you wrote that as soon as Mr Swett ould complete the purchase of the goods ordered bill of the same would be sent me. have not received it and thought possibly he matter had been overlooked. If the goods have not been purchased and sent yet, please do ot trouble to answer this note.

Resp'y yours,
Geo. L. Williams.

Oberlin, April 13. 1877
Rec'd April 17

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Oberlin O. May 5. 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;-

I understand that the money granted for my Outfit is at my disposal. If it is so will you please send me $200.00 two hundred dollars at your earliest convenience?

Respectfully Yours,
Geo. L. Williams.

Oberlin, May 5. 1891.
Rec'd May 7. 1891.

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Oberlin O. May 18: 1891.

r Judson Smith,
Boston, Mass.
Dear Sir;-

We have decided to sail rom Vancouver, with Mr Sheffield, on the 1st y of August. We leave here for the East on ay 26th Will you kindly send me at once $50.00 r travelling expenses? Not a cent will be used for ything but necessary travelling expenses. I have funds to draw on for the purpose. If our xpenses from here East are not paid by the Board e take the amount from our outfit money.

Obediently Yours,
Geo. L. Williams.
Oberlin.
O.

Mr Williams also wrote me for the money & I sent it. L.S.W.

Mr Sheffield has not asked me to book his family yet, so I do nothing for Mr Williams now. L.S.W.

Oberlin, May 18, 1891.

Rec'd

Southington Conn. May 30. 1891.

Sec'y Smith,
Boston, Mass,

Dear Sir;—

My address for the next three weeks
ll be as given above.
e have decided to sail by the Canadian Pacific line
om Vancouver, with Mr Sheffield, on Aug. 1st.
r Ward can secure our passage for that date.
uppose a Passport must be secured.
all I correspond with the Secretary of State in regard
or do you secure it?

Obediently Yours.
Geo. L. Williams.

Southington, May 30, 1891.

Rec'd June 1,

Southington Conn.
June 4, 1891.

Sec. Judson Smith, D. D,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;–

Yours favor of June
is at hand. In reply I would say
at Mrs Williams and I are expecting
come to Boston on Monday the 8th
June, to complete the purchase of our
tfit. While there we will make the appli-
tion for passports as you suggest.
ill you kindly drop us a line by return
ail, suggesting a place for us to stop at
hile in the city.
Desiring to faithfully serve the Master in
se days of preparation,

I am,
Obediently yours,
Geo. L. Williams.

520 Clark Ave.
Cleveland. O.
June 27. 1891.

Rev Judson Smith, D. D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;-

I feel very grateful
the Prudential Committee for advancing
o- upon my salary, and I shall honestly try
use the favor to the best interests of the cause.
would like information in regard to medicines.
have not taken medicines because I have under-
d that there is a dispensary at Taiku.
ll you please let me know if we need
take more than a few simple medicines?

Obediently Yours.

Geo. L. Williams.

Cleveland, June 27. 1891.

Rec'd June 29.

Tung-cho, China.
Sept 9. 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Nearly three weeks have already passed since our arrival in China. We had a remarkably smooth and enjoyable passage out, stopping one day in Yokohama, one in Nagasaki, and two in Shanghai. We reached Tientsin sooner than our friends ~~expected~~ looked for us. Mr & Mrs Clapp, who were to be our escorts into Shansi, were visiting in Shantung. Two or three days after our arrival, they came up to Tientsin however, so that we were not delayed there. Dr Sheffield had already gone on to Tung-cho. After resting a day or two more, in company with Mr & Mrs Clapp we came on to Tung-cho to visit this Mission, and to decide the question as to the advisability of remaining here a year for the study of the language, before going on to Shansi. The question is somewhat complicated, and there are, it seems to me, sound arguments on both sides. These are doubtless familiar to you. Both Mrs Williams and myself desired very much to go on and begin to keep house at once, but we felt that our own preferences should not interfere with the interests of the cause. We thought it would be wise for us to leave it to the ~~ex~~ experienced Missionaries of this Mission together with those from Shansi to decide. They decided unanimously that it would be better to remain eight months or a year than to go on at once. Consequently we are already settled down to our work in Tung-cho. We have been most cordially received into the home of Dr and Mrs Goodrich, and are most pleasantly situated. If you would like to know more fully the reasons for stopping here I shall be glad to give them in a future letter.

The work here is in a most flourishing condition. School rooms, dormitories, and chapel are crowded to overflowing. The need is imperative for increased means to enlarge and extend in order to accommodate the numbers already on the ground, and letters are being received regarding the reception of new pupils. Would that some of our Xians at home who have the means could visit this School. I am sure they would become enthused. Sunday the chapel was completely filled with an audiance of 200 or more, who listened attentively to a spiritual and thoughtful (I am told) sermon by a young Chinese pastor. It was indeed good to be there although I understood not a word of the service.

The Communion service followed and made our first Sabbath in Tung-cho one to be remembered."

I believe you may well be proud of your workers in this Mission, they, each and all, impress and inspire a new comer both with their energy and their spirit.

We are thankful indeed that we are permitted to engage in this work and for this people. They are degraded and wretched indeed as we see them out in the city.

Both Mrs Williams and I are in unusually good health. We are glad we are here.

We all hope to see you in China during the year.

Obediently Yours,

Geo. L. Williams.

Tung-cho. Sept. 9. 1891.

Rec'd. Oct. 21.

Taiku Shansi.
Oct 26. 1892.

Dr Judson Smith.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr Smith:

We are at last
ppily settled in our long
ticipated Shansi home.
e Inland journey was long
d wearisome but interest-
g and enjoyable in many
ys. We are quite well.
Atwaters are also very well.
hope to send you an extended
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spects by the next courier.

Very truly yours.

Geo. L. Williams.

Rev. Geo. L. Williams S

Taiku, Oct. 26. 1892.

Rec'd Dec. 28.

Taiku. Shansi. China.
Nov. 23. 1892.

Dr Judson Smith,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sec. Smith:-

At last we are quite fully settled in our own home in Taiku.

We are quite pleasantly situated and have besides our four living rooms a small cozy guest room which we hope at no very distant day you and Mrs Smith will occupy while on your tour of the China Missions.

Our journey inland although long and tedious was not over wearisome and was full of interest. It was as you may suppose, hard to part with our dear friends at Tungcho whose fellowship and helpfulness in every way will always be remembered by us.

Helpers Chüan and Tsui came down the Pei ho with us hoping to meet Miss Andrews on the way up the river and escort her to Tungcho. It was delightful to have them with us as they are in every way agreeable company. I am very anxious to have you meet some of these young men. In no other way can you realize fully the work that is being done in China by the missionary. At Tientsin we met the Atwaters who had arrived shortly before. It was a great pleasure to see them in such robust health, especially the little ones. At Tientsin we received a telegram saying that Dr Goldsbury would meet us at Paotingfu on the 20th of Sept. So we were compelled to wait two weeks at Tientsin before coming on. At last we got started on Monday afternoon but, there being a head wind, we were not able to pass through the bridge of boats that night. The next day was the day set for the funeral of Lady Li and as the procession was to pass over that bridge, it was kept closed all day, and no boats were allowed to pass through. Although the delay was somewhat trying we had a fine view of the magnificent funeral cortege. Li Hung chang is Viceroy of three provinc and guardian of the throne, and I suppose we never shall have the opportunity to witness such a fine display again. "The procession was two hours and a half in passing. It was headed by a huge wooden figure in the form of a man, painted black and most hideous to behold.

Following this were many fanciful and ugly representations of Elephants, Tigers, Lions and many other beasts. There were many hundreds of mottoes carved on wooden tablets, and as many more canopies of most exquisitely embroidered silks, of all colors and designs, borne aloft on poles capped with silver knobs. There were companies of Buddhist and Taoist priests with richly embroidered robes, many imitations of flowering plants, household furniture, clocks &c, Many kinds of food, Sedan chairs; carts, horses and servants, and ~~many~~ other things were carried along. "Companies of hired mourners were interspersed, wailing and moaning in strange, wierd fashion. There were many Chinese bands of music and one feature which seemed strange by the contrast was the presence of the Settlement foreign band of Music, playing western Music of a patriotic character. Many soldiers were in line, driving back the people who crowded the streets, with cruel blows of knotted rope. The booming of Cannon was almost constant. The friends of the departed, dressed in sackcloth, walked in front of the bier. The Catafalque itself, though not so large and imposing as some I have seen, was exquisitely rich in design and finish." We felt well paid for the delay caused and the next morning came on our way toward Paotingfu. This part of our journey was uneventful. The first two days the country almost as far as one could see was under water caused by the recent rains.

Dr and Mrs Merritt received us most cordially and we spent two weeks in their hospitable home. Dr ~~and~~ Goldsbury was ill and unable to go on to meet us, and we were left in such uncertainty that we could do nothing but wait although we could easily have come on alone. Mr Thompson finally came the day before we had decided upon to start, and insisted on returning as far as the Pu Tao river which was difficult to cross. We had no trouble at that river however, but experienced a little difficulty at a smaller stream. Some extra men had been hired by our litter men to help ford the stream. On getting over our men drove on with the litters and left Mr Thompson and me to pay the river men. Some other rascals ~~had~~ joined those who had helped us over and we could not tell those who deserved money from those who did not. We gave them a fair amount and walked on to overtake the litters. The men followed and demanded more money.

They were mean fellows, with bodies entirely nude; they were pressing upon us, even laying hands upon us; one man was jumping up and down with rage and foaming at the mouth. We were getting a little anxious as to the outcome of the affair and Mr Thompson put his hand into his pocket to get his passport out when he accidentally pulled out a blank envelope. An idea struck him which had worked well in other instances. He coolly wrote down the name of the place and asked his servant what the ringleader's name was, if it was not Chang, a common surname. The servant said he did not know but would enquire at the village near by. The scheme worked like a charm. The men said not another word but dropped back quietly toward the river.

At another river three of the pack mules fell down in the water, seriously damaging some of the goods. Mr Thompson left us at the Pai Tao river and went back to Tientsin a happy man, for reasons which you well know. About two days out from Paotingfu we met Miss Hewett who was on her way to the coast in company with ~~Miss~~ The Morgans, English baptists. We enjoyed the mountains very much. The road in no place is dangerous. Some of the views are very fine. Those which burst upon the traveler at the Tung tien men and the Nan tien men (East and South heavenly gates,) are sublime and beautiful indeed. On the way we met Messrs Host and Griffiths of the China Inland Mission, also Dr and Mrs Wilson and Miss Sterling of the Pigott Independent Mission, most refreshing experiences. Mr Clapp met us two days out from Taiku and escorted us ~~out~~ into the city where we were, right cordially welcomed by our friends and to be fellowworkers.

"Taiku is not so large a city as I supposed before leaving America. It probably does not number many more than 50000 people. Nobody knows how many there are. It is a walled city and the wall is in good condition. It is on a beautiful fertile plain about 2800 ft above sea level. We are about 15 miles from the mountains on the east of us. They rise from 1500 to 2000 ft above the plain, I should judge, and in this marvelously clear atmosphere present a beautiful view from the city wall. The mountains to the west are farther away, some twenty miles I should say. This plain is about 100 miles long and is completely shut in by mountains. There is much wealth in the city as well as much poverty. The streets are much cleaner than in Tungcho and we do not see such repulsive sights on the streets here. While in Tungcho and Peking we never saw a house of two stories, here there are a great many, some having even three stories. The houses are built of fine brick and present quite imposing fronts often. The streets are very narrow and the tall houses shut out much of the blessed sunshine which we foreigners welcome so gratefully as one of God's good gifts to make our lives in China so much pleasanter than they otherwise would be.

The work here seems to me to be in quite a flourishing condition. Mrs Clapp has a fine school of 20 boys all quite young. I love to sit and look into their faces and think of the promise there is in them. There are half a dozen who I have faith to believe in a half dozen years will be just such faithful and intelligent helpers as those in Tungcho whom I so well remember. Before the next communion the 17 who were taken on probation last spring are to be examined for church membership and many of them, we feel sure, will be counted worthy. In a recent prayer meeting a cloth dealer who has been in constant attendance for a year past rose and publicly asked for prayers wishing to obtain forgiveness ~~from~~ his sins.

We brought our servant in from Paotingfu. He is the same one who was with us at Tungcho last year. He had been instructed in religious matters by others, especially by Miss Morrill. While we were in Paotingfu he desired to be baptized and I had the great privelege and joy of baptizing him myself, the first active work, I may say, I have been permitted to do in China. He is a consistent

Christian, buying new books that he may read and know more of the doctrine.

I could tell you many things illustrating the condition of this people with whom we live and for whom we work. The dirt and filth of the street and home are very trying to the senses of the Missionary. I will tell you plainly of one thing that came under my observation, for without plain words you cannot know their real condition. I accompanied Dr Goldsbury on a visit to treat a sick child in the home of ~~one of~~ our teacher who is wealthy and aristocratic. The room was one of the best and cleanest I have ever seen. A little child, running about the room defecated on the floor. The thing seemed to be of common occurrence and no notice was taken of the fact that we were present. A servant went to the door and called to a dog which came in and ate up the foul mess. The dogs and pigs of China scavenge the streets and live largely on human ordure.

Last saturday a thing happened which made us all shudder. Some seven years ago a man was arrested for stealing money. Being a relative of the chief magistrate he was not immediately executed but was imprisoned. Recently another Magistrate came into authority and one of his first acts was to sentence this criminal to death. He was taken from prison, and, followed by a great crowd of people, was led down our street to the corner just below our gate where he was tied up to a pole with his feet some two feet above the ground and strangled to death in the presence of great numbers of people. A piece of coarse matting was tied about the head and upper part of the body, which was then left hanging in this public place for two days before it was taken down for burial.

At first I find this Shansi dialect so very different from the Pekingese that I can understand very little. I do so wish they would speak the tones and sounds clearly. These tones, which I have worked so hard the past year to master, seem to be almost wholly ignored by the people here. I cannot say whether it was wise to remain at the coast a year or not. Weighing both sides of the matter carefully, I am inclined to think that it was.

I am anxious to take hold and help Brother Clapp in his multitude of duties, but as yet am doing nothing regularly but teach a class in the Sunday School, and I am frank to say that I believe it is more helpful to me than to the boys.

Praying for Gods' blessing upon you and your fellow workers in Boston,

I am,

Faithfully Yours,

Geo. L. Williams.

Taiku, Nov. 23, 1892

Rec'd Jan. 26, 1893

Taiku, Shansi, China.
Jan 18, 1893.

Rev Judson Smith, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:

The weather has been very cold in Taiku during the past week. Every day in the morning the thermometer has registered below zero, the coldest being 7° below. It is the most severe weather for several years I am told. The suffering among the beggars and poor is very great. At such a time the beggars become very importunate, sometimes attempting to force themselves into our courts to beg for pity. One night we were kept awake by their pitiful cries. We can do little to help them much as we would like to do so. While begging is a legitimate profession in China little can be done. The more one does for them the more he is beseiged, Their name is legion. One day last summer, while coming down the river from Tungcho to Tientsin, I jumped off the house boat for a walk upon the river bank. Very soon a beggar appeared calling loudly for ~~help~~ pity. He was soon joined by another and then another. Where they came from I do not know. No village seemed to be near. They seemed to spring from the grass and to come from behind the trees. Before I could get back upon the boat twentyfour of these wretched beings, men, women and children, old and young, were upon my heels. A wealthy Christian in the English Baptist Mission attempted to do something for this class in his city. He opened a refuge for them. Many came and thanklessly received food and clothing without being willing to do anything to help themselves. Fifteen died in this refuge within a short time. I will not say that there are no exceptions to this thankless spirit, for I well remember an old Christian woman in Tung chou whom Mrs Chapin rescued from the streets of that city. She is today greatly beloved by the children of the Mission and her Christian faith no one doubts.

Mr and Mrs Atwater were out riding one day recently, when they came suddenly upon the dead body of a beggar which was being torn limb from ~~to~~ limb and eaten by dogs. Whether the man had perished from the cold I know not. This shocking sight was seen within a rod of the city wall and only a few rods from one of the four great gates of the city.

" A most interesting thing recently occurred which I cannot doubt will be fruitful of good results. My teacher is a man of wealth and position in the city. He is an old friend of our brother Lin Hsien Sheng, teacher in the school. For some time he has been very kindly disposed to the missionaries and their work. He is not ashamed to be publicly seen with us and takes pleasure in escorting us to places of interest in the vicinity; in short, he seems to like us, to have faith in our motives, and wishes to assist us in many ways. Together with many others of his class he takes his meals at the principal ~~fan~~ fan kuan (restaurant) in the city. At this restaurant the regular patrons have a private theater for their amusement. Last week they invited Mr Clapp to come with his magic lantern and exhibit pictures. For three successive evenings an audience of about 300 of the better class of citizens gave respectful and interested attention while Mr Clapp exhibited pictures representing the Bible storys, interspersed with Western science, art, and natural History. Lin Hsien Sheng, who is a magnificent Christian Orator, and Helper Wang held their attention of the by the hour while they preached the simple Gospel truth. A company of the school boys added much to the interest of the occasion by singing hymns. When the meetings were over all the Missionaries were invited to the Fan Kuan to a fine feast. You may ask, "What has it amounted to"? We do not know. Thirty men voluntarily bought New Testaments that they might read about the doctrine for themselves. My teacher is reading "Martin's Evidences of Christianity" looking up references in the Old Testament with interest. Although there seems to be little immediate result, I cannot doubt that we will be better known and respected in the city and that the way is being prepared for the extension of the Master's kingdom."

The reports of the Annual meeting of the Board have finally reached us and we have read them with interest. When will the discussion end? We were reminded of the truth of the old preacher who said,

"Theres a great deal of human nature in Man".
I have read with much interest your own paper on Missionary Qualifications. I agree with your views most heartily and the longer I live in China I am more and more convinced that your views are correct.

My teacher, although kind and helpful, is a very poor instructor. Mr Atwater was very fortunate in obtaining a fine teacher from Paotingfu, one who taught Mr Ament for two years. I have just sent to Paotingfu for a friend of his whose services we hope to secure.

I wish to say a word in regard to the petition recently forwarded by the Mission to the Prudential Committee asking for an appropriation of money for a building for Mr. Prices' school in Fenchofu. I signed the petition hastily. There was no discussion for the enlightenment of the newcomers in regard to the matter. I have not been to Fenchofu and know nothing of the condition of things there. Ever since signing the petition I have felt that I should not have done so owing to my

-imperfect knowledge of the needs. I say this simply and only on general principles, as, I believe from all that I can learn, the request was founded on a real need and should be granted if possible. I say this simply because even during the short time I have been in China, my views have radically changed on many questions, and I believe new-comers should be learners rather than Counsel~~l~~ors, Mr Arthur Smith of Pang Chuang once said that a new-comer should not have a vote for three years after his arrival. I am inclined to think that is extreme and Mr Smith himself I am ~~I~~ sure would hardly be the man to keep quiet that long.

With best wishes for Yourself and your brother Secretaries in your arduous duties, I am,

Faithfully Yours.
G. L. Williams.
Taiku.

Rec'd March 23.

P.S. The Fan kuan friends have sent over a collection amounting to 4.000 tiao ($2.61) for the school boys.

Taiku, Shansi, China.
Feb. 14. 1893.

Rev Judson Smith D.D:

Dear Dr. Smith.

Sunday the 5th of Feb. was a day to which we shall look back in after years. On that day Brother Clapp, after years of patient toil and waiting, gave the sacred rite of baptism to ~~11~~ 12 believing candidates; one woman, ~~four~~ five pupils from the boarding school, four servants, and two teachers. All our hearts were melted at the spectacle and it was a day of great rejoicing. These are not perfected christians in any sense, but they have been well tried by a year of probation, and from all that we can ~~know~~ see are worthy to enter the church of Christ. The woman baptised is the first woman to receive that rite in Taiku. She is the wife of Teacher Liu who was baptised some years since and who is every inch a man and a rare christian character. Mrs Liu is a woman of strong character who some time since, before becoming a christian, in her own strength broke away from the opium habit. She lives some 30 li (10 miles) from

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Taiku at Chi Wang and Mrs Clapp goes to her home every other week to hold meetings with the neighbor women who assemble. Her daughter also shows evidence of being a Christian.

One of the teachers baptised has been employed as a personal teacher by the Missionaries almost since the Mission was founded. Since his conversion his attitude toward the Missionaries has greatly changed. From being disdainful and indifferent he has become interested and helpful. Two of the school boys passed most excellent examinations and seemed to be fully conscious of the step they were taking. We watch their progress in the Christian life with anxious solicitation because we believe the future is in the hands of the native helpers we may be able to raise up.

On the same day nine others were admitted on probation. I was impressed by the remark of one of these, that he believed "very exceedingly" as he put it. He is an ignorant man. I am teaching him to read and he is showing much energy in the matter that he may learn more of the Gospel

We look forward to our Annual meeting in April when the first church ~~of~~ will be formed.

The Work is *slow*! Do you know what that word means? I did not before coming to China. We can freely go into any village of this great plain I suppose, but that does not mean that the people are reaching out their arms to receive us and the Gospel we bring. We are treated with much contempt and great indifference by the people, and from a human point of view the work seems hopeless. But the Work is the Lord's and not our own. And now we have those with whom we daily meet who evince by their lives that Christ has saved them. We have great reason to rejoice and our hope is in Him for the future.

Our Christians show signs of healthy development in many ways. At the last prayermeeting they pledged (and afterward promptly ~~payed~~ paid) seven tiao ($4.50 Gold) toward purchasing lamps for the chapel.

Tomorrow is the Chinese New Year's day. Great preparations are being made for its celebration as it is the great festival season of the year. Business accounts are allowed

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Tomorrow is the Chinese New Year's day. Great preparations are being made for its celebration as it is the great festival season of the year. Business accounts are allowed to run during the year but great efforts are made to settle up and begin the New Year aright. The streets and shops are crowded with busy men today. It is also the time of year when every house must be cleaned, and new, or at least ~~clean~~ clean, clothing must be put on. What a vast amount of dirt is gotten rid of you can scarcely imagine. Indeed it is the accumulation of the year. One week before New Years' day the old kitchen god is taken down and burned and he is supposed to go up ~~to go up~~ to heaven. Before being burned his mouth is smeared with a sticky kind of candy which is much eaten by the people at this season of the year, so that the god will not be able to report to the great god of Heaven the unkind words and wicked deeds of the family during the year that is past. During the last week of the year while the gods are away, it is popularly believed that they have no knowledge of the doings of mortals, therfore thieving and lawlessness are more common then than at other times. On New Year's day a new god is bought and set up who watches over the family for the ensuing year. On New Year's eve the family are busily engaged in great preparations for feasting which begins after midnight. The day is observed by feasting and calling which is universally observed, the caller carrying large paper cards of a bright red color. The observance of the New Years festival continues for two weeks and very little business is transacted during that time.

I have recently heard that your health is somewhat impaired. Hoping that it is improved ere this, I am,

Obediently Yours,
G. L. Williams.

Tai-Kan, Feb. 14, 1893
Recd April 21

Indeed it is the [illegible] of the year [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

supposed to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

being [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] covered with a sticky [illegible] which is smeared on [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] of the year, so that god will not be able to report to the great god of Heaven the wicked words and wicked deeds of the family [illegible] [illegible] during the last week of the year while the gods are away, it is popularly believed that they have no knowledge of the doings of mortals; therefore gambling and [illegible] are more prevalent then than at other times. On New Year's day a new god is bought and set up who watches over the family for the

Tai Ku, Shansi, China.
March 16, 1893.

Rev Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Sir;

In the Dec. No. of the Missionary Herald under "Additional donations for Special objects" I notice the gift of $30.71 from the Ashland, O. Auxiliary and Y.P.S.C.E. for Mr and Mrs Williams, Shansi. Mrs Thompson, our Mission Secretary writes me that you noted the fact in a letter to her. I am in doubt as to whether we have the right to make such disposition of money so recorded as we see fit; or do such gifts make up to that amount the regular appropriation to our Mission? I desire to know that I may let the Ashland people know what disposition is made of their money.

Dr Goldsbury has been quite ill with fever for several days with persistent high temperature. The indications however are more favorable this morning I am happy to say. We have grave fears that a damp and illy ventillated house is the cause of this repeated attacks of a like nature.

Mr and Mrs Clapp have returned from a much needed rest and visit of two weeks at Fen Chow Fu.

~~Dr and~~ M Dr Atwood and Mr Price made us flying visits a short time since. Dr Atwoods' errand was to perform the marriage ceremony of his Cook He Kou. It was a most interesting occasion, the Christian ceremony being respectfully witnessed by three or four hundred Chinese. The only objection made was by one old woman who said audibly, "This is a great doing, not to worship Heaven and Earth". Liu Hsien Sheng immediately sprang to his feet and explained to them how much better it was to worship God who made Heaven and Earth.

The prospects for work about us are brightening. Dr Atwood recently visited a vicinity west of Tai Ku some 20 miles where several patients treated in his hospital live. He reports a most hospitable reception, the people asking for a foreign family to come and live among them. The district magistrate is friendly, the door is wide open, the call is very distinct. It is absolutely certain that the place will soon be occupied by others if we do not go in, although it is within the limits of our legitimate field.

A work is also quietly opening in Chêng Chia Chuang a village two miles west of Tai Ku. Lao Wu has put away his idols and is a regular attendant on church services. We are cordially welcomed at his house.

That we cannot be too careful in giving occassion to the rabble for riot is manifest from a recent occurrence at Chich Hsien 50 miles from here. Several Swedish ladies belonging to the Swedish Alliance of the C. I. M. are living there alone although Mr Bagnalls lives in another part of the city. On the night of the feast of Lanterns, the ladies hired carts and attended by Chinese servants went out to view the illuminated streets. One cart becoming separated from the others, was surrounded by a rough crowd who attempted to unharness the mule and overturn the cart. A servant ran to call Mr Bagnalls who immediately came to the rescue. The crowd surrounded him and getting more and more excited, put

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The prospects for work about us are brightening. Dr Atwood recently visited a vicinity west of Tai Ku some 20 miles where several patients treated in his hospital live. He reports a most hospitable reception, the people asking for a foreign family to come and live among them. The district magistrate is friendly, the door is wide open, the call is very distinct. It is absolutely certain that the place will soon be occupied by others if we do not go in, although it is within the limits of our legitimate field.

A work is also quietly opening in Chèng Chia Chuang a village two miles west of Tai Ku. Lao Wu has put away his idols and is a regular attendant on church services. We are cordially welcomed at his house.

That we cannot be too careful in giving occassion to the rabble for riot is manifest from a recent occurrence at Chieh Hsiu 50 miles from here. Several Swedish ladies belonging to the Swedish Alliance of the C. I. M. are living there alone although Mr Bagnalls lives in another part of the city. On the night of the feast of Lanterns, the ladies hired carts and attended by Chinese servants went out to view the illuminated streets. One cart becoming separated from the others, was surrounded by a rough crowd who attempted to unharness the mule and overturn the cart. A servant ran to call Mr Bagnalls who immediately came to the rescue. The crowd surrounded him and getting more and more excited, put up their ques, rolled up their sleeves and drew out knives. Two friendly shopkeepers managed to get Mr Bagnalls into a shop and secreted him, thereby probably saving his life. Through the courage of a servant who used his whip freely, the ladies also got away safely. Chinese women go out freely in carts on such occasions and our Chich Hsin friends broke no custom of the country. The event shows that we have to be careful lest we put our own lives, and what is of more importance our work in jeopardy.

With kind regards I am,
Obediently Yours,
G. L. Williams.

Tai Ku, March 16, 1893.
Rec'd May 9.

Tai Ku, Shansi, China.
March 30th 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Dr. Goldsbury is dead. We could not save him. His disease rapidly developed into Malignant Typhus Fever. His remains are now quietly resting in the English Cemetery near Tai Yuan Fu. His memory is blessed among us. He was a personal friend to every member of the Mission. He was a faithful Missionary of the Cross, like his divine Master spending himself to the utmost for the good of others. In the beginning of his last illness, rather than save himself, he cared for the sicknesses of ~~others~~ the Chinese who came to him for treatment. His faith in Christ was a simple, childlike faith, such as they ~~only those~~ have who are permitted to enter the kingdom of Heaven. He was the very soul of sincerity, never hesitating to do what he thought was right. Our loss as a Mission is great. Our friend and brother has left us. Our physician, to whom we so often looked in time of need, has been taken from us. Dr Atwood is 1½ days journey away, so that, in case of sickness 3 days must elapse before we can get help. I trust that Dr Penniman or another physician may be sent to us in the Fall. Our work will suffer in every department. The medical work was breaking down prejudice in the villages around Tai Ku and in Jen Tsun where the Dr held a clinic every month. Mrs Goldsbury must return home, and in consequence, the work for women and girls must be retarded. We feel sadly afflicted, but the work is the Lord's and He will carry it on we are confidant.

Obediently Yours,

G. L. Williams.

Taiku. [illegible] 26. 1893.

Dr. Judson Smith.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Bro:

I have just returned from a quick and prosperous journey to Paotingfu. (700 miles and back in 22 days) It was my sad duty to escort Mrs. [illegible] and children on their way home. They went down the river from Paotingfu to Tientsin in company with Dr. Noble's family who were going to Tungchou. I believe the brethren here have written you about our annual meeting. I have no time to write by this courier. I send by this mail an appeal for two ladies which Dr. Atwood and I were appointed a Committee to draw up.

Respectfully Yours
G. L. Williams.

from us [illegible] days journey away, so that [illegible] days must elapse before we can get back. I trust that Dr [illegible] or another physician may be sent to us in the Fall. [illegible] work [illegible] suffer in every department. The medical work was breaking down prejudice in the villages around. [illegible] where the Dr held a [illegible] every month. [illegible] must return home, and in consequence, the work for women and girls must be retarded. We feel sadly afflicted, but the work is the Lord's and He will carry it on we are confident.

Obediently Yours,
G. L. Williams

Rev. G. L. Williams
Fen-chow-fu, March 30/1893
Rec'd May 23.

Taiku. May 26. 1893.

Dr. Judson Smith:
Boston, Mass.
Dear Sir:-

I have just returned from a quick and prosperous journey to Paotingfu. (300 miles and back in 20 days) It was my sad duty to escort Mrs Goldsbury and little Ned on their way home. They went down the river from Paotingfu to Tientsin in company with Dr Nobles family who were going to Tungchou. I believe the brethren here have written you about our Annual Meeting. I have no time to write by this Courier. I send by this mail an appeal for New Workers which Dr Atwood and I were appointed a Committee to draw up. In haste.

Respectfully Yours,
G. L. Williams.

Tai ku, May 26, 1893

Filed July 13

Yü Tao Ho. June 20. 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.,
Boston Mass.

Dear Sir;–

I came to Yü Tao Ho, this charming summer retreat of the Fen Chou Fu station, a few days since, having remained in Tai Ku until the middle of June for the annual Examination. Yü Tao Ho is 60 miles from Tai Ku, too far away from that station for us to go every summer as we need to be near enough to keep a general oversight of the work. But, as Mrs Williams is in delicate health this summer and we wished on that account to be near Dr Atwood, we came here and are delightfully located with the Davises. Yü Tao Ho is a lovely valley at the foot of the Mountains with a sparkling, splashing stream of clear, cool water with grassy, mossy banks, shaded by tall trees. It is more like dear old New England than any place I have before seen in China and gives one a delightful home feeling. There are many villages in the vicinity whose people are friendly and approachable. Many come to our Sunday Service and we also have a daily service in the nearest village.

After returning from "Paotingfu I wrote you a hurried note regarding the trip. Perhaps you would be interested in a fuller account. Paotingfu is only 300 miles from Taiku but traveling is so slow in China that I was twenty days upon the road, ten going and ten returning. We rode in mule litters, curiously contrivances hung on poles between two mules. Starting every morning at 5 or 6 o'clock and stopping at night by 6 or 7 o'clock we made on the average 30 miles a day. The road is a very mountainous one, the greatest attitude reached being about 5000 ft above the sea level. The road continually passes through cities and villages, large and small, and in only two of these during the entire distance are Missionaries stationed. Is it not a painful fact for the Christian church to contemplate? And we must remember that we are not shut out from any one of these cities. Every place is open today for the entrance of the Gospel. At no point on the road did I meet with *any* trouble or opposition. During the return trip I subsisted largely on Chinese food. I tried Tou fu soup but must confess that my servant ate the most of it for me. Tou fu is a bean curd in the preparation of which all taste of the original beans is lost. Pien'h Tang (Tang is soup) is a little better. It consists of a dough made of flour and water rolled out, cut in shreds and boiled in water seasoned with oil and garlic. Mo hsi tang is made of egg broken into a dirty looking broth seasoned with arrow root. A choise morsel is a sort of turnover filled with garlic. Rice can rarely be bought in the Inns in North China.

I was able to get meat but once or twice during this trip and then only pork. Chinese food may be all right for those who can endure it but a foreigner needs a digestive apparatus of more than ordinary caliber to endure the ordeal.

Canned goods from America are a blessing to the traveling Missionary but they are expensive. A part of our "extravagant salaries" is used in their purchase. It was a great pleasure to rest three days in Pao ting fu with Dr Nobles' family.

We were greatly pained to learn of the recent death of Shou Tung, Dr Merritts' chief medical assistant. I don't know when I have been so shocked as when I heard the news. Even Dr Goldsburys' death did not affect me so much His life seemed so invaluable. In the present state of Missionary work in China when such a Native worker as he was is taken away when and how shall his place be filled?

"Not long since I spent a Sabbath at Ching Yüan, our new outstation of which I have spoken in recent letters. The people are unusually respectful and courteous at this place and show considerable interest in the "Jesus doctrine". About 20 men and as many women assembled and listened to my broken Chinese as I attempted to tell them of the Heavenly home which Jesus is preparing for His disciples, using a part of the 14th of John for my theme. The Chinese helper afterward enlarged upon what I had said. Some of the people were interested, others were more interested to ask me what people ate and wore in America. How fast the steamcars could go. If Americans smoked opium. If there were any poor people there. Whether America was East or West from China, and many other questions of a similar nature. It is a very difficult matter to get a Chinaman to comprehend a spiritual thought. Their minds are all taken up with worldly matters.

"This Tai Yüen plain on which we live is for the most part exceedingly fertile, in fact, this province of Shansi has been called in times past the granary of the Empire. At this season of the year the country is beautiful with growing grains and vegetables, almost like a vast garden, but, as one rides along, it is sad indeed to see the amount of valuable land ~~that is~~ given up to growing the poppy for Opium. Sometimes one sees almost the half of a farm taken up with this plant which only brings misery and death to those who use it. More Opium is used in Shansi ~~China~~ than in any other province in China. Two men were asked what proportion of the people took Opium. One said eight out of every ten, the other said 11 out of every 10. When one sees the blurred eyes and the pale faces on the streets of Tai Ku he almost believes the latter statement true. Those who use it become so debauched that our Christian work for them seems almost hopeless. Mr Clapp has classes of Opium patients whom he treats medically at the same time teaching them Christian truth. He is obliged to search their persons for any of the drug they may have concealed about them, and lock them up in a closed court to keep them from procuring any while under treatment!! When it is taken from them they suffer greatly often being attacked by serious sickness. The opium curse is a terrible curse and a most serious obstacle to the progress of Christianity in China.

I was very glad to get your kind letters. Your suggestions in regard to the formation of a church in Tai Ku I fully appreciate. It is my personal opinion that the time has fully come for such a step and I was very much disappointed that it was not made at the annual meeting in April. It is true that some of those whom we have baptised have already proved false, but some, on the other hand, are faithful, and such need the mutual help and training that organization ~~that~~ would give them. I trust that ere long the church will be formed. It is with great pain that I am forced to write of the falseness and hypocrisy of the Teacher whom we baptised in the Winter. Almost immediately after his baptism he was found to be leading a life of gross immorality. Also one of the School boys was

was called home and forced to worship idols immediately after taking his stand as a Christian. Such cases are discouraging and we do not know who may prove unworthy next, but with organization, even though our numbers are small, I believe the work will grow.

I do not agree with some of my brethren on some methods of work, especially that of self support and I desire advice. I would be very glad for any suggestions from the Board. You urge me to write often and much. Are there any special phases of our work which you wish to learn about?

When we write we are apt to overlook the very things which may be the least known and understood at home.

With kind regards,

I am Obediently Yours

G. L. Williams.

Gin Tao Ho, June 20-1893
Rec'd Aug. 17

Taiku, Shansi, China,
Jan 4, 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr Smith;

Some months have elapsed since I last wrote you. The delay was caused by unusual stress of work and ill health.

The report of the Annual meeting at Worcester, reached us by the last mail and somewhat allayed our anxiety. The general feeling here is that the best was done that could be done under the circumstances. Some of us fear however, that the trouble is not over with yet.

We are greatly disappointed that a physician has not yet been found for Taiku. The fields are white, where are the laborers? By not having a Dr. here we lose much time in going to one else where. For instance; Last August a little daughter was born to us. We were obliged to go to Fên Chou Fu to secure the services of Dr Atwood. We were obliged to go in the Spring and remain all summer because during the rainy season the rivers are liable to be impassable at anytime and we could not depend with any certainty upon the Dr's being able to reach us in the time of need. When the time came my wife was very ill, and, so far as we can know, the lives of both Mother and Child were saved by the use of instruments in the skillful hands of Dr. Atwood. It is not pleasant to contemplate what the result might have been had we remained at our post in or near Tai Ku.

Another instance, Mrs Thompson met the same experience as my wife last November. What should they do? If they went to Fên Chou Fu they could not return to their work before Spring. So they decided to go to Tai Yüan Fu which city is nearer their home, and accept the hospitable kindness of our English Baptist and China Inland Mission friends.

Another instance, Last month I was taken with a severe throat trouble which was feared to be diphtheria. Dr Atwood was sent for who came in most trying winter weather, leaving his own work at great risk to the welfare of his hospital patients. His Assistant who was just recovering from a fever, while not yet able to do it, arose to attend to the wants of others, with the result that he suffered a serious relapse. Fifteen hospital patients, among whom one man had just received an operation for cataract, were left practically without care. We seriously need a physician in Tai Ku. May the Lord direct your efforts in seeking for the right man!

The work in and about Tai Ku is growing more and more promising. Bro. Clapp is known widely and is generally highly respected by the people. His years of faithful, patient labors are beginning to bear fruit. We, his fellow laborers, shall miss both Mr and Mrs Clapp greatly next year in their absence and we earnestly pray that they may return to the work. Bro. Clapp's opium classes this winter have been very interesting.

Different grades of Society have been represented, some from the Ya Men dressed in silks and satins, others from the farm or Cooly class. All have been taught the Gospel. Some have expressed sincere interest and have been admitted to probation. All have been made friends. One is a rich man in the city who belongs to an ancient family and lives in the ancestral home which cost $200 000. Another was a scribe at the Ya Men (Court house). Another the Carter of the highest official in the district. Another, now a probationer, was a buddhist priest until near middle life. And so on. Through the opium refuge many friends are made and some are won to accept Christ. The work is gradually spreading. We have now Christians in 7 seven different cities and villages, and probationers and enquirers in several more. In view of the opening fields we feel that one new new station at least should be occupied at no distant day. In order to do this new workers are needed. There is a man in Oberlin in this years' graduating class, Mr ~~C.J.~~ L.J. Luethi who is considering the matter of coming to Shansi. I know the man and consider him and also his wife as very desirable people for this work. I hope it will be convenient for you to meet them and if possible have them appointed to this field.

With kind regards,
I am
Yours faithfully,
Geo. L. Williams

[illegible] were on probation [illegible] passed a good examination, [illegible] young man [illegible] and worthy [illegible] by the spirit of [illegible] He is an illiterate man but says he believes "very exceedingly". The bright answers of the schoolboys showing a comprehensive grasp of the truth were very gratifying.

In the afternoon nine adults, one woman and eight men were admitted to probation making thirteen in all admitted this winter.)

So far as we can judge by appearances a friendly spirit and a just appreciation of our motives are growing [illegible]. The Military Official of Tai Ku Hsien together with his wife who recently broke off from the opium habit with Dr Atwood are occasional attendants.

Taiku, Jan. 4, '94
Filed Mar. 6.

Physician
Requests.

family and [illegible] [illegible]
which [illegible] [illegible]. Another was
inside the Yamen (official house), and the
[illegible] of the highest official in the
district. Another, now a probationer, was
a buddhist priest until near middle life.
And so on. Through the opium refuge
many friends are made and some are ready
to accept Christ. The work is gradually
spreading. We have now Christians
in seven different cities and villages,
and probationers and enquirers in
several more. In view of the opening
fields we feel that one more new station
at least should be occupied at no distant
day. In order to do this more workers
are needed. There is a man in Christ[illegible]

Tai Ku. Shansi. China.
Feb 15. 1894.

Taiku, Jan. 4, '94

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Two Sabbaths ago was a red letter day. In the morning six candidates, three men and three boys, received the rite of baptism, all of whom had been on probation for a year. All passed a good examination, one young man however being judged worthy rather by his spirit of sincerity than by knowledge. He is an illiterate man but says he "believes very exceedingly". The bright answers of the school boys showing a comprehensive grasp of the truth were very gratifying.

In the afternoon nine adults, one woman and eight men, were admitted to probation making thirteen in all admitted this winter.

So far as we can judge by appearances a friendly spirit and a just appreciation of our motives ~~is~~ are growing on all sides. The Military Official of Tai Ku Hsien together with his wife who recently broke off from the opium habit with Dr Atwood are occasional attendants on divine worship. A rising and influential young man who recently purchased an important official position paying 3000 taels for the place, has been a regular attendant this winter. We hardly hope for many converts from the upper classes in China at the present day, but their good-will is a thing to be devoutly thankful for.

As the work progresses questions of great moment and very difficult to settle confront us. The tax collectors demand the payment of Temple taxes from our Christians. Although released by law from the payment of such dues, it is a matter not easily adjusted. Our plan of procedure is never to go to the officials with any matter when we can avoid it. If we can work peacefully and quietly it is so much better for the progress of the Kingdom.

Another distressing question is that of polygamy. In this province large numbers of even the common people are polygamists. The first case of this kind which has come before us to settle is now in hand, and the responsibility of settling for the best interests of the future church in China is a heavy one. A man of a fine spirit, who seems to be convicted of sin in an unusual degree and who has already suffered severe persecution, losing his business and friends, asks for church membership. He has two wives. Having no male issue, and, as a heathen feeling the necessity of having posterity to keep up the ancestral worship, he married another wife. With his present light he says he never would have done it. He cannot put her away, for in china that would be making her an outcast and her children a reproach. Shall such a man be admitted to the church and receive~~d~~ baptism with the distinct understanding that the church puts her ban on polygamy and in no case would allow a *member* to commit plural marriage, or shall such cases be kept out of the church? Such cases may be often met with in the future as the church grows, as polygamy is very common in this region. The church of God should be as pure as possible, but how high a standard should be insisted on in the beginnings of the church in a heathen land?

In my last letter I wrote of the buddhist priest who was taken on probation. His is a very interesting case. One morning he came to prayers with his arms full of the sacred books of the Buddhas which he gave over to us to be burned or made use of as we should see fit. There are forty volumes some of which are very rare and cannot be bought at any price. Some were presented to him by priests on Tai Shan the most sacred mountain in China. Others were received in the same way at Wu Tai Shan a famous sacred mountain in Northern Shansi. I am anticipating their perusal with great interest.

With kind regards, I am,

Respectfully Yours,

G. L. Williams.

Taiku, Feb. 10 1894

Rec'd April 14

Tai Ku. Shansi. China.
March 29, 1894

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Your letter of Jan. 3, came by the last courier and we hail the glad news that a physician is in view for Tai Ku with great joy. We look for the next courier for further news with much interest. It means much to us personally and also with regard to the work.

Mr and Mrs Clapp left us for America on March 20th. We expect with certainty to see them back again after a good rest at home. Indeed how can we do without them! We shall miss them much here in Tai Ku. The work is a heavy one for us who are left.

I regret that I have neither the time nor strength for a longer letter this time.

As always I am,
Obediently Yours,
G. L. Williams.

Tai ku, March 29, 1894

Filed May 28

T'ai Ku, Shansi. China.
May 10. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.,

My dear Sir:

Some time ago we received very encouraging letters from you with regard to the appointment of a Dr. for T'ai Ku. It is needless to say that the news was received with great rejoicing, but our hearts have nearly lost hope. Three mails have come in since the hopeful news and never a word about the matter. Is it possible that the mission is to be still left without a physician? God forbid! It will be done to great hindrance to the progress of His kingdom and to risk of life to the missionaries here. Where are the christian Drs. of America that they hear not the call? I often think that we have little conception of the urgency of the need and of the great grief that must come to the heart of God because of the apathy of his children who must evangelize the heathen nations if they ever become evangelized. While we were waiting anxiously for news of the appointment of a Dr. we heard indirectly of the appointment of Miss Hinman, whom we confidantly expected to soon welcome to Tiên Chou Fu to the North China Mission. We realize the great need of our sister mission and rejoice with the Bridgman School over its great gain in securing so promising a teacher, but our hearts are swept by fear lest to the loss of a Physician be added the loss of a teacher.

The health of this station is fairly good at present, though some of us have reached almost the limit of nervous endurance and we anticipate the time when we can leave the corrupt and fetid city for the pure and healthful country.

Since the departure of Mr + Mrs Clapp in the latter part of march the work in its various departments has fallen rather heavily upon us, no one of whom had had much experience, but we have the constant assurance of the Eternal help.

Since the organization of the church in March the work has assumed more definite shape and the future seems full of promise. We have much confidance in the integrity of some of the 17 members. Others we cannot help doubting and we fear not only for their own souls but also for their influence over others. One who was baptized over a year ago has turned out a despicable wretch of whom our good teacher said with bated breath "he was ~~the~~ blacker than the Devil himself."

We have now 13 on probation who are perhaps more promising than most of those admitted before because they are outsiders from the surrounding villages. We cannot place great confidence in the professions of our servants for the average servant will profess anything or ~~any~~ everything for the sake of a position.

As the oldest member of this station since the departure of Mr Clapp, I have, while trying to be faithful to the course of study, kept up the regular services alternating with helper Liu so that services are held every Sunday at both Tai Ku and Che Wang.

We are very hopeful of the work at Che Wang. We have there 5 five church members. They have by themselves, entirely without mission aid, rented a convenient room on a main street for holding public services. At first the village

Elders and rich men strongly objected. Now there is no opposition. Last Sabbath I had there a small but very attentive and appreciative audiance. Mr Wang the polygamist of whom I wrote in a previous letter is one of the largest contributors to the work there. This mans' attitude and growth in knowledge and spiritual experience is most satisfactory. He has suffered much for Christs sake in persecution and pecuniary loss, but his sensible conduct and stadfast purpose have already largely allayed the fears and stopped the persecution of his friends. Last year Mr Clapp was shut out not only from his home but from the only public inn in his village, while recently Miss Partridge was cordially welcomed by his family, and now we have three fine boys in the school whose fathers are friends of his. He has been with us in Taiku for about three months studying and reading, and in every respect has shown himself an exemplary Christian. Having two wives we have hesitated about granting his wish to receive baptism. After long and prayerful consideration of his case, we are, as a station, a unit in deciding that such a step is pleasing in the sight of God. His case is decided on its own merits and need not affect the decision in other cases. As the state of society at present is in China the second wife cannot be put away without doing her a great wrong. The question of polygamy is one which can only affect the beginnings of the church as in no case would a member be allowed to take a second wife.

A new opening has recently been made in Tung Fang, a village of some 4000 families five miles from Taiku. Some time ago a man bought a christian tract entitled "Two Friends" from Mr Clapp. He became interested and bought a New Testament. Mr Clapp knew nothing of the man until in the winter when he became a regular worshipper in our chapel. In conversation it was found that he knew much of the truth. He now walks in regularly to Sabbath service. Two weeks ago he invited Mr Liu to his village to preach and asked Miss Bird to go and teach his wife and neighbors. We hope that a permanent work has been started there."

Miss Bird, Mr Atwater and Mr Lee are teaching the school which was never more promising. We are praying for a descent of the Spirit upon the older boys that they may be moved to offer themselves willingly for preachers to their people.

Praying for God's blessing to rest upon you and your fellow workers at the rooms,

I am,

Sincerely Yours,

G. L. Williams.

[illegible]
[illegible] 6, 18[illegible]

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith

[illegible] the [illegible] word of the dreadful increasing debt of the Board. "What an [illegible] debt," [illegible] and the intimation that [illegible] missions of the Board will have to be given up. Surely the Lord's Mission. God will surely [illegible] such a calamity! I cannot think of it. I cannot think of coming home. I would sacrifice half my salary or [illegible] rather than give up. Will not [illegible] [illegible] the Board to give more money? Will not the churches respond to the call of [illegible] Just now when the work and labor of so many years is beginning to tell must we be called upon to leave it? What will become of our Christians? What a reproach our name would be in all this region! Must we leave this work which God so graciously protected [illegible] in spite of war and danger of every kind, we have to go out teaching their wife and neighbours. We hope that a permanent work has been established.

[illegible] Mr. Applegate and Mr. [illegible] are [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] from the [illegible] hope that they may be moved to offer themselves willingly as preachers to their people.

Praying for God's blessing to rest upon you and your fellow workers at the rooms,

I am

Sincerely Yours,

G. L. [illegible]

Tabriz, May 10 - 1894

Rec'd June 21

Tai Ku. Shansi. China.
Dec 6. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:

The last mail brought us word of the dreadful increasing debt of the Board. $116000 in debt. *How dreadful! And the intimation that some Mission of the Board will have to be given up. Possibly the Shansi Mission. God will surely avert such a calamity! I cannot think of it. I cannot think of coming home. Indeed I would sacrifice half my salary or remain alone rather than give up.* Will not some Christian rich men be found to give more money? Will not the churchs respond to the call of God *Just now when the work and labor of so many years is beginning to tell must we be called upon to leave it? What will become of our Christians?* What a reproach our name would be in all this region!

*Must we leave this work which God so graciously protects us in doing in spite of war and danger of every kind, all because of lack of money which Christians at home have but are not willing to give to God. When I was in the Seminary we were often told (that men were needed and could not be obtained,) that if men could be found the money would be forthcoming. The men are here. Where is the money. Let the Church be covered with confusion and shame that such a condition of things can exist?"

In the name of perishing China I beseech you to lay this upon your heart and call upon the pastors of the churches to more earnestly and fully present the case to the people.

I am greatly rejoiced to learn that you have returned to your post improved in health and that your valuable services will be continued in the work.

Obediently Yours.

G. L. Williams.

Tai Ku, Shansi. Dec 30. 18[illegible]

Rev. Judson Smith D. D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:

By the last courier I wrote you expressing my sorrow at the financial condition of the Board and the consequent possible necessity of giving up some portion of its work. I have faith to believe that the dreadful debt was paid at the last Annual Meeting, of which we have no reports as yet, and that the churches will not let the interests of the Kingdom among the heathen suffer for lack of money. I have such faith that I now make a plea that the appropriation for which we (the Tai Ku station) asked nearly two years ago, and which the Board approved of, may be granted in the near future.

Dr. Hall for whom we prayed so long, has arrived on the ground and is spending his first winter in cramped quarters, as for [illegible] awaiting that suitable provision may be made for him to begin his work in Tai Ku. We are occupying at present three places in the city, one of which is the of lack of money which Christians at home have that are not willing to give to God. When I was in the Seminary we were often told that men were needed and could not be obtained, that if men could be found the money would be forthcoming. The men are here, where is the money? Let the Church be covered with confusion and shame that such a condition of things can exist?

In the name of perishing China I beseech you to lay this upon your heart and call upon the pastors of the churches to more earnestly and fully present the case to the people.

I am greatly rejoiced to learn that you have returned to your post improved in health and that your valuable services will be continued in the work.

Obediently Yours,

E. Z. Williams

Sai Nee, Dec. 6, 1894.

Rec'd Feb. 7, 1895.

Tai Ku, Shansi. Dec 20. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith. D. D.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:

By the last courier I wrote you expressing my sorrow at the financial condition of the Board and the consequent possible necessity of giving up some portion of its' work. I have faith to believe that the dreadful debt was raised at the last Annual Meeting, of which we have no reports as yet, and that the Churches will not let the interests of the Kingdom among the heathens suffer for lack of money. I have such faith that I now make a plea that the appropriation for which we (the Tai Ku Station) asked nearly two years ago, and which the Board approved of, may be granted in the near future.

Dr. Hall, for whom we prayed so long, has arrived on the ground and is spending his first winter in cramped quarters at Jên Tsun awaiting that suitable provision may be made for him to begin his work in Tai Ku. We are occupying at present three places in the city, one of which is the property of the Board, the other two being rented at $ 116 Taels a year. Shall we hire still a third in this unsuitable, unhealthy city for Dr. Hall? The Courts which we now occupy in the city are unhealthy in the extreme. Some regard them so unhealthy that they would take their children back to America before living in them. Our own court is so small and shut in by high brick walls that not a bit of sunshine strikes its' pavement during the cold winter months. Our dining room never has a bit of sunshine summer or winter. Our only little one is just beginning to run about and it is a serious question to her parents whether they ought to let her remain in such a place, a question, however, which they are powerless to decide, but which the churches at home must decide for them. Mr Atwaters' court is little better getting only a little sunshine at noonday because of a south frontage.

The thirty three boys in the school are confined in a very small court and the school cannot grow for lack of room. What are we to do? It is hard to see the faces of wives and little ones growing pale and thin. It is hard to toil on with all the exasperating friction of work ~~cramped~~ confined in such close quarters especially when the work in all lines could be carried on to greater advantage if we could remove outside the city. Places are opening for sale on all sides but we can not remove without the appropriation.

A part of the place now owned in the city could be rented and the remainder kept as a book-store and street chapel which never should be given up. Every other line of work would be better off outside the city either in a suburb or some near village. The Evangelistic work is opening up in villages and not in the city and could be worked to better advantage and with less loss of force if we were outside.

The School would not lose anything by the change but would gain everything, health of Teachers and Pupils, a garden for partial support of the School, &c. Fuel and water are much cheaper out of the city. Our Chinese teacher estimates that the school could be run 1/3 one third cheaper outside the city than in.

The Medical work by general consent would be far better off outside than in. The place occupied by our lamented Dr. Goldsbury is now occupied by Mr Atwater and cannot be used for medical purposes. No place is yet provided for Dr. Hall. Is it not the time to make a permanent home for his family and work in a suitable place? Our prayers are united that the straitened circumstances of the Board may be relieved and that the appropriation may speedily be granted to Taiku.

Obediently Yours,

George L. Williams.

aiku, Dec 20-1894
Rec'd March 1-1895-

Tai Ku. Shansi. Feb. 27. 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.,
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Your always welcome letter came duly to hand about a month ago.

I should have answered sooner had I not been in the midst of an examination which I failed to take last summer at the regular time because of my illness which kept me from all work for about four months.

I was indeed glad to hear directly from you of your restoration to usual health and consequent ability to resume your duties at the Rooms.

You spoke of seeing Mr Clapp at Madison and of hearing with interest the report of our Mission. We now look for the return of Mr & Mrs Clapp in the coming fall and should consider it a calamity if for any reason they should be hindered from coming.

Everything is quiet here with respect to the War. We are some ten miles off the main road and never see the soldiers who are constantly passing through from the South and West.

ans. Dec. 20-1894
Rec'd March 1-1895

At present we see no difference in the attitude of the people toward us. There is a tolerably correct knowledge of the condition of things among the better classes and they are fast coming to ~~the~~ know that the War is with the Japanese and not with all outside of China. Whatever the outcome will be one thing is sure the Chinese are getting their eyes open and their prodigious empty pride, we may hope, will be somewhat diminished hereafter. ~~I would be glad to~~

I would be glad to gratify your wish to hear from each member of our Mission in regard to our work once a month, but it seems as though we had not enough of interest to write about so often. I often wish that you might live with us a year and learn of the difficulties and slowness of the work. It would be a pity to fill your ears with our constant trials and disappointments, and yet, in answer to your question about growth and change during the two years since I arrived here I can see real growth and brighter prospects. The School is constantly increasing in number and quality of the pupils. It presents a much better appearance in the matter of dress and care of the person, a gratifying improvement considering the fact that we do nothing in the way of financial aid in this direction.

Again, I can see a decided growth in spiritual knowledge & life on the part of ~~some~~ a few christians. When I came two years ago the church had not been organized. Now there are twenty baptized members in good standing and all the ordinances of the church are regularly observed.

The outside evangelistic work has not been pushed, especially since the departure of Mr Clapp a year ago, from the fact that the members of the station are all young on the field and are principally occupied in language study.

The work at Che Wang, an out station, is promising, the people having themselves hired and met the running expenses of their own place for preaching. There are openings in several villages for schools but as yet we have no suitable teachers. The oldest boy in school is now 19 and we may soon expect teachers from their number if we can keep them with us. Every chinese father wishes to place his boy at 16 years of age in some shop, and it is a difficult thing to keep them with us after that age unless we support them. ~~He~~

The Medical work is at a standstill at present owing to the death of our beloved Dr Goldsbury but will soon begin again under the enthusiastic lead of Dr Hall who is already with us but spending his first year at Jên Tsun in quiet study.

What I have said is only concerning the work of the Tai Ku Station and not of the Mission.

I am sorry that I cannot report more favorably in reply to your kind wish regarding our health. It is not so good as we could wish. Our houses and courts are not conducive to the best health especially to wives and children and those whose duties keep them close at home. We anxiously look for encouraging news as to the financial condition of the Board hoping that we may soon be able to procure more healthful homes. With best wishes.

I am, Obediently Yours,
G. L. Williams.

Taiku, [illegible]
Filed April 23

REPORT OF EXAMINER REV. G. B. FARTHING.

The following is the report of the Mission Examiner, the Rev. G. B. Farthing, on the examination of Mr. Williams. The work done covers the second ful year. It wil be remembered that Mr. Williams was prevented by ilness from taking the examination in June of last year. The supplementary examination now reported was held in February of the present year. Mr. Farthing says in his letter to the committee :--

"It has given me much pleasure to go over Mr. Williams's papers. They ar very wel done, too. In the marking I hav been strict. The writing of characters, which has taken the smallest number of marks, is really good when one knows, as I do, the stifness of the subject. Writing characters is the most formal of all the subjects--it is certainly the most confusing and difficult. The paper on Martin's Evidences has pleased me greatly. It was wel done. The English into Chinese shows acquaintance with Chinese idiom which one must praise. The faults it manifests ar common to us all--it is too redundant. The marks ar :

"Chinese at a Glance"	90
Wade's 10 Dialogs	86
English into Chinese	86
Writing of Characters	75
Martin's Evidences	94

	434: average 86 4/5.

Yours very sincerely,

G.B.FARTHING,
Examiner.

Forwarded by

D'Etta H. Thompson
Sec. of Mission.

Jen Ts'un, Shansi, China,
March 12, 1895.

father [illegible] his boy at 16 years of

age [illegible] it is a difficult thing

to keep them [illegible] that age unless we

[illegible]

[illegible] standstill at

[illegible]

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work of the [illegible] station and not of the mission

[illegible]

[illegible] The unspeakably look

[illegible]

your [illegible] of the Board hoping that we may

soon [illegible] more healthful

[illegible] with best [illegible]

[illegible] Yours

G. L. Williams

Jen Tsun, March 12 [illegible]
Rec'd May 13

Tai Ku. Shansi. China.
March 14. 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Another Courier is in from the Coast and no alarming war news at Tientsin.

Some are hopeful that peace will soon be declared and the war stopped. Others believe that the Japanese will not listen to overtures of peace until they are in the Capital City itself. While a thorough and complete victory for the Japanese, whom the Chinese regard as a race of pigmies, would doubtless be the best thing that could happen to China I have no sympathy at all with Japan nor do I see any justice in her cause. The Chinese in this vicinity have no fear for the safety of Peking, believing as they do, that it is guarded by large armies of well trained men. Everything is quiet here and we seem to be in usual safety. A few days since the Imperial proclamation, explaining that the war is only with Japan and commanding the safety of Teachers and Merchants of all other countries, was posted in the drum tower and the four gates of the city.

Large numbers of people have read these proclamations but no hostility whatever has been aroused.

Last week a terrible accident occurred in the city. A theater-stand fell in killing twenty-eight women and children outright and horribly crushing and mangling many more. I was surprised that more did not desire the services of the foreign doctor. Only two families sent for Dr Hall who came quickly in from Jên Tsun and amputated the crushed arm of a little girl ten years of age. The other case, a woman of middle age, was so badly injured as to be past help. As is often the case, I presume that others, when they have tried the Native Drs. to no avail, and all hope of recovery is gone, as a last resort, will send for the foreign Dr. and allow him to show his marvellous skill and lay up merit for himself by freely healing the patient.

The 6th of the present month was a pleasant and profitable day for the Tai Ku church. On that day we celebrated the first Annual Meeting of the church with three services. Mr Thompson came in from Jên Tsun and preached in the morning. A business meeting was held in the afternoon and Mr Liu, the native teacher, preached in the evening.

The church has a membership of 20 and their (native) contributions for the year amounted to about $7.00 Gold. This seems a small record even for the first year but it means more than those who have never been in such a field can realize. I do not look for rapid growth or anything like perfect christian character in the near future yet I believe that a good foundation has been laid, that the work has been well begun and that we shall never go backward from the point already gained.

The appropriations for the year have arrived, and I need not say brought sorrow to every heart. To have our work cut down one half from lack of funds is a sufficient cause for sorrow. The Taiku station has determined *not* to cut down its work. The deficit shall be met from our own salaries for the present year at least and as long after that as we shall be able to do it. Alas, that the last reports from the Board are not more encouraging. When I was a student at Oberlin we were told that if men would only offer themselves the money would quickly be forthcoming. Now we are here and have not enough money to carry on our work. I cannot believe that the Board has erred in extending its work thus far but that the churches have failed in the duty which they ought to have performed and which they could have performed.

Obediently Yours.

G. L. Williams.

Sachow, March 14 1878

Rec'd May 13

Tai Ku. Shansi. China.
March 28. 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Sir;

Since I last wrote we have passed through days of trial and anxiety. Lao Meng who was baptised more than a year ago has fallen into sin and it seems more than likely that he never had the root of the matter in him. Last week his old mother died and he seemed to have no other idea than that he must go through all the heathen ceremonies, I very much fear from his own desire to do so rather than from the fact that he was compelled by his older brother and uncle as he claimed. His action stands in sharp contrast to that of Deacon Liu, when he passed through the same trial last summer, who dutifully paid the funeral expenses of his heathen mother, but did not go near to assist in any heathen rites. You can readily see what a searching trial it is for our christians, for instance, the eldest son and only christian in the family, to refuse to do those things which the chinese count as filial piety, the very first duty

of man, and foundation of all virtue.
Lao Meng, poor man! while he still claims that christianity is true and good, cannot after all, when the test comes, tear himself away from his idolatry. But the saddest part of it is that he has taken his son Kouer out of our school. Kouer is now 17 years old and has been in school 6 years, indeed he was the first pupil. We had fond hopes that he would become a preacher of the Gospel or a christian teacher. Whether the boy has worshipped the idols or not is not yet evident, neither is it yet plain whether he has been forced away from us against his own will or not. We can only wait and pray for his salvation.

About onethird of the school this term are new boys, who are more advanced in reading on entering, and come from a better class of homes than the former average, a fact of ~~growing~~ encouragement and a proof of growing respect and confidance on the part of the people even in these troublous times.

The question of native helpers confronts us with increasing force whether we shall support our advanced pupils during the time of preparation or let them slip away from us and enter business. Boys in China of the class we get a-hold of are universally put into shops at the age of 17 or 18 and it takes a faith which we cannot hope for on the part of their parents, to keep them in school beyond that age, at the present stage of our work. What is the policy or wish of the Board on this point? What is the practice on other fields in this respect? What is the plan in the north China Mission? I should be very glad for information from you on this point. I believe that our small returns and slow growth is due to the fact that we do so much ourselves and so little through a native agency. How to raise up faithful native workers is the great question for us to solve I believe.

The health of the Station has not been good of late. Miss Partridge is just up from a light attack of pneumonia. Miss Bird is overtaxed with work and anxiety for the boys who are in temptation. Our own house is full of malaria from damp walls. We long for open, fresh, healthful courts outside the city. I fear that I may seem complaining.

Very truly Yours, G. L. Williams.

Taiku, March 28 1890

Rec'd May 18

Li Man Chuang, Taiku Hsien, china-
July 31st. 1895-

Rev. Judson Smith. D. D.,

Respected Secretary:-

For some time I have felt that I ought to write you concerning the removal of the Taiku Station outside the city about which so many urgent letters were sent to the Board during last winter, the matter has been a very difficult one to settle, requiring much time, (as every such matter does in china) consequently I have not, until now, been ready to write concerning it. And even now I am sorry that I can report so little that is decisive or satisfactory.

At the last Annual Meeting of the Mission held in April it was voted "to rent property for mission purposes at Putzu or some other desirable place outside of the city as soon as it is practicable for them to do so." You wrote me from the Rooms on March 18th that the matter had been considered by the Prudential Committee and the Mission authorized to make changes within certain well defined limits. I quote from your letter. "The report of the committee with its recommendations which the Prudential Committee adopted has been sent to

Mrs Thompson, the Secretary of the Mission, and will by her be promptly reported to the Missionaries at Taiku". Such a report was never received by Mrs Thompson. Whatever its instructions may have been I do not know but I presume we have been able to guess what they were with something like accuracy from remarks you have made in letters. In the letter to me quoted above you expressed the hope that we would be able to remove our families outside the city to healthful places of residence "without a total cost exceeding the present amount of rent which is paid".

Both before and after receiving the above instructions of Mission and Board Mr Atwater and I have been diligent in the search for houses in villages adjacent to Taiku, especially in the village of Pu tzu scarcely a mile from the south suburb of Taiku, which village is the choice of every member of the station both as a place of residence and a basis for work. A large number of houses have been visited but only three were found to be suitable and these three are all difficult to get, and as yet many visits and lengthy interviews have been unsuccessful in securing any of them. A part of one place has been mortgaged to another party who does not wish to give it up. Another place is owned by three people two of whom are very anxious to rent but the third has money and is immovable. The third place is already mortgaged which makes it hard to acquire. You will be able to see to some extent the difficulties of the situation.

We are now situated at Li Man for the summer months in a "Flower Garden" which we secured last year for a term of three years at $80 Tls, accommodating in summer fashion two families and one single lady. Li Man is a village 8 miles from Taiku in which houses can be secured reasonably. You will probably wonder why we do not settle here; indeed I think in a former letter you proposed this very thing suggested to you by Dr Atwood, you said, if I am not mistaken.

First, I would say that every member of the Taiku Station is opposed to making Li Man the center of our work. In my judgment the fact that houses can be secured here is the only reason for coming here. It is situated at the extreme side of the plain with populous villages and cities to the west for 30 odd miles reaching to the Western hills while there are only scattering villages in the rugged hills to the east. I think the centre of our station work should be more nearly the centre of population.

The work as you know has been located at Taiku for many years and the providential leadings and openings of work have been almost wholly to the west and north in the opposite direction to Li Man. If we should settle at Li Man it would be more labor to care for this work already started and the tendency would be to neglect it ~~for~~ in favor of less promising but nearer places.

Again, Li Man is nearer Jên Tsun, the third station of our Mission than is Taiku. The two stations are now, in my opinion, too near each other and any move to bring them nearer is to be avoided.

It would be well to say perhaps that our present accommodations here are suitable only for summer weather and would not save us the expense of hiring other houses for winter dwelling.

In view of these reasons we are very loathe to remain permanently at Li Man. At the Chinese New Year late in January the Chinese have a custom of settling accounts for the whole year when every one is anxious for money. Our hope is that then the places desired in Putzu can be secured.

For these reasons it seems best to us to go back into the city this fall, unhealthful as our houses there are, trusting that suitable places can be secured at the Chinese New Years so that we shall be able to to move permanently in the early spring.

Another reason which might be given is that the rent of the School Courts does not expire until March of next year. The rent at Men Lou Tao where Dr Goldsbury lived and died will be given up next month as Dr Hall will not live in the city and will fix himself and family temporarily here at Li Man.

The settlement of the question has caused no little anxiety and I trust that the future will show that no mistake has been made.

If the money for new buildings were only forthcoming it would settle the difficult question immediately to the joy of us all and the progress of the work.

Blessings on the Newburyport church who have made a beginning by sending us $8.00 for that purpose. I trust that you have received the appeal by Mr Davis and Mr Thompson pressing the request for the appropriation which was renewed at the last Annual Meeting. With kindest regards,

I am obediently yours.

Geo. L. Williams.

Li Mau, July 31-1895
Rec'd Sept 27

Taiku. Shansi.
Dec. 4, 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.,
Boston Mass.

Dear Sec'y Smith:–

Mr and Mrs Clapp returned from their furlough about a month ago in good health and with renewed zeal and energy for the work. Shortly before their arrival Mr and Mrs Thompson left us in their turn for a well earned rest at home. And so the ball keeps turning, some will be going ~~and~~ or returning nearly every year now. At present the places occupied by our Mission seems very well manned and we naturally look for results or at least signs of progress in the varied lines of work marked out. I know that friends and supporters of the work at home look eagerly for results. It is but natural, yet if you could but see the conditions of things as they are you could not expect many very soon. The obstacles to be overcome are tremendous, transcending all human power to remove, and, I say it reverently, to a great extent even divine power. For they will not hear. They seem to be completely given over to the powers of darkness and are past feeling. The blood of the chinese as a nation is polluted from licentious living and their hearts are full of all manner of deceit. Foul obscenity is displayed in public places. The first chapter of Pauls letter to the Romans is all too true. Honesty in trade is almost unknown. Corruption and rottenness permeates family life, social life, business life, political life. To such a people the preaching of the Gospel is but foolishness. Spiritual ideas are wellnigh incomprehensible to them.

The picture is indeed a black one.

The task of arousing, overturning, reclaiming, purifying, saving;- and that through despised foreigners,- is indeed a tremendous one, and yet not hopeless. Many of the first converts prove to be black hearted, foul hypocrites. Others seem to be only half hearted, half converted. While a few, thank God that he gives us the blessed joy and hope, are genuine, whole souled, appreciative, fruitful followers of our Lord. In the Mission there are now some 40 forty carefully selected church members, while many more would have been admitted under a less careful policy.

Since the return of Mr & Mrs Clapp we may hope for more aggressive work in the Tai pu station. Several are now waiting to enter classes for breaking off the Opium habit. Others are either now reading and studying the Scriptures with the Missionaries or are desirous of doing so. Preaching services are sustained each Sabbath at three points viz - at Tai pu, Chi wang and Tung Fang, while the opening of a fourth at Li Man Chuang is under consideration. Dr Hall, who is slowly recovering from his long and serious illness with Rheumatic Fever will not be able to do much work for several months yet I fear. It has been a hard trial for him and his family during their first year in China. Miss Partridge is energetically opening up woman's work in Li Man which promises to become fruitful.

An interesting event was the recent passing through of the U.S. Commission going to Szechuan. The action of the U.S. Government through Minister Denby seems very tardy in view of the long months which passed by before the commission started on its long journey from Peking. France early pushed her claim and in the summer received ~~recompense~~ compensation for the destruction of her Roman Catholic Missions. En Route our own Commission failed, if reports are true, through carelessness or indifference to form and etiquette, to obtain the respect of the chinese and the proper attention of Magistrates along the line due to the representatives of a country like the U.S. It seems a great pity to lose such an opportunity of peacefully impressing upon the minds of the chinese the importance and dignity of foreign countries. I do not wish to exhibit a spirit of criticism of those in authority, but ~~those~~ those of us who live among the people and see so much at stake, are jealous of every opportunity that might be taken and of every gain that might be made to the cause.

With kind regards,

Believe me

Obediently Yours,

G. L. Williams.

Rec'd Jan. 31. 1896.

Tai ku. Shansi.
Jan'y 16. 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.,

Dear Dr Smith:-

Rec'd Jan. 31. 1896.

Your letter of Oct. 9th 95 was read with thanksgiving because of the encouragement it gave us to hope that our needs in Taiku might soon be relieved by the Board. Your letter said, "The necessity which seems upon us of delaying suitable provision for houses for our Missionaries cannot well last long". I take it that you mean that there is a near prospect of the Board's granting our long desired appropriation. If it could be granted now, it would not only be economy to the Board but would relieve us of great anxiety and save much valuable time for missionary work. It is impossible for you to conceive how difficult it is for us to find native houses in the villages suitable for remodelling, and the undertaking means the spending of much money, time, and strength with poor results at the best. How much better it would be to build now rather than just after having repaired and moved into native houses.

Just before Christmas I visited Ching Yüan

and found the Native Christian teacher there prospering in his school. We spent a day calling in the homes of some of the pupils, heathen homes with some dim knowledge of the truth which the boys had brought from the school. In every case I was most hospitably received into their living rooms, men and women alike waiting upon me regaling me with tea and dates. The seclusion of woman among the common people of China is not so great as is generally supposed.
The principal subject of conversation among them was how to secure the necessities of the present. The future life, with its hopes and fears, seems to have very little place in their thought.

We have recently opened a new outstation at Tung Kang where regular Sabbath services are now held. At first we met in a very small, dirty room freely offered in a private house. Not more than a dozen men could possibly enter at once but it cost no foreign money and we held on. Soon the people themselves provided a larger room though still poor and mean, furnished only with a bench or two and a small table besides the common kang. Here we helped them in necessary repairs to the extent of exactly one dollar and forty-one cents, the people providing for the fire and care of the room. This is the nearest approach to self support which we have yet secured in the beginning of new work. The hearers of the Word are increasing in numbers and ~~the~~ seem more than usually receptive of the truth.

Last week, in unison with the whole Christian world, we observed the week of prayer. There is a peculiar joy, isolated as we are, of thus feeling in touch with the great body. The meetings brought such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as I have never before seen in China. A marked seriousness and solemnity was felt by old and young alike. Christians met daily at noon to pray for a blessing upon the evening services and their prayers were graciously answered. Before the end of the week twenty seven, some of them with tears, publicly professed Christ, desiring to repent ~~of~~ and lead Christian lives. Heartfelt testimonies were heard and confessions made of sins which had before been secretly practiced. New resolves were evidenced by manly endurance of shame and fresh zeal in service. It has been truly a season of refreshing, an inspiration of hope, which some of us had almost lost faith in expecting. We thank the Lord ~~and~~ for what our eyes have seen and our ears heard and take courage.

Mr Clapp has opened an interesting opium refuge.

Dr Hall, though still weak and partially helpless from his late serious attack of rheumatic fever, has begun holding clinics at Li Man.

Praying for the speedy granting of our appropriation,

I am

Faithfully yours,

G. L. Williams.

Tai Ku, Jan. 16. 1896.
Rec'd March 16.

Tai ku. Shansi.
Mar. 12. 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith,
Sec'y Am. Board. Boston,

Dear Sir:-

The news of the necessary reduction of salaries has reached us. We can stand it and we are not going to give up the ship, nor are we going to cut down the work at present one whit. Indeed we are glad to sacrifice with others in the common cause. But, if further reductions come, Alas! what shall we do!. I think we are justified in saying that it is not right. There is money in the hands of Christian men. The churches are not performing their duty. I am astonished and grieved beyond measure that the progress of raising the debt is so slow. Men seem to think that almost every thing is of more importance than the salvation of the world. When shall we rise to the plane of consecrated living and see things in their true light?

Sincerely yours.
G. L. Williams.

Tai'ku, March 12, 1896

Rec'd May 1.

Par.

Taiku, Shansi, China.
March 28. 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Dear Dr. Smith:-

The Missionary Herald for February giving the receipts of the Board for the first four months of the fiscal year came in by the last mail and made the "heart sick" from "hope deferred".

What shall we do? Further reduction will take the very life blood. The churches surely have no predetermined suicidal intent but such is the reality of the case. They are cutting of a hand here and a foot there, thus bringing failure abroad and leanness at home. How can the Lord own and bless either at home or abroad!

We seriously overran our appropriation last year and have personally become responsible for the deficit, and now this year we are told to run a broadening work on a still smaller financial basis. The outlook is far from encouraging. What can we do? What can we who are upon the field do toward securing money? What can we in connection with you who are at the Rooms do?

The demand for funds to remove the Taiku Station outside the city, for which we have waited and prayed and implored so long, is daily becoming more imperative. The increasing work and our growing families of little ones can not longer endure the present situation.

What can I myself do is a question I have long considered. Will you kindly send me the address of Dr. Pearsons of Chicago and that of other wealthy friends of the Board with the permission of the Prudential Committee, if such permission is necessary, to make them personal appeals?

With keen sympathy for you at the Rooms with your heavy burden of responsibility at such a time,

I am
Faithfully Yours
G. L. Williams.

Taiku, Shansi.

May 7, 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith;

I send you, together with the vote, another appeal to the Prudential Committee urging the appropriation of $11,000 for the removal of the Taiku Station outside the city which has been repeatedly asked for in past years. Now that the debt has been removed from the Board we are more hopeful that the money may be immediately granted.

[illegible] we only [illegible] to [illegible] that there has been a misunderstanding between us here and you and the Prudential Committee there, which would have been explained immediately had we known of the [illegible]. Only recently our Mission treasurer [illegible] found [illegible] your letter to him of [illegible] 11, 1895 [illegible] the appeal which was made a year ago by Mr. [illegible] and Mr. Thompson in which you said, "The Com[illegible] has already taken action authorizing the Station [illegible] to sell the property that is owned in the city and with the funds purchase upon as favorable terms as possible property outside." [illegible] I am surprised that the brethren at Taiku have not made the change in location that they were authorized

The demand for [illegible] the Faith outside the city for which we have waited and prayed and [illegible] is daily becoming more imperative [illegible] work and our growing family of little ones can no longer endure the present situation.

What can I myself do is a question I have long [illegible]. Will you kindly send me the address of Dr. Pearsons of Chicago and that of other wealthy friends of the Board with the permission of the Prudential Committee if such permission is necessary to make these personal appeals.

With keen sympathy for you at the Rooms with your heavy burden of responsibility at such a time [illegible]

[illegible]

Faithfully Yours
G. L. Willis

March 28,
Rec'd May 18

Taiku, Shansi.
May 7. 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.
Dear Dr. Smith;

I send you, together with this note, another appeal to the Prudential Committee urging the appropriation of $11.000 for the removal of the Taiku Station outside the city which has been repeatedly asked for in past years. Now that the debt has been removed from the Board we are more hopeful that the money may be immediately granted.

I am extremely sorry to learn that there has been a misunderstanding between us here and you and the Prudential Committee there, which would have been explained immediately had we known of its existence. Only recently our Mission Treasurer, Mr Davis, showed me your letter to him of Sept. 11, 1895 in answer to the Appeal which was made a year ago by Mr Davis and Mr Thompson in which you said, "The Committee has already taken action, authorizing the Station .... to sell the property that is owned in the city and with the funds purchase upon as favorable terms as possible property outside"........ "I am surprised that the brethren at Taiku have not made the change in location that they were authorized to make by the action of the Prudential Committee above referred to, which was duly reported to the mission". The ~~ref~~ point referred to regarding the sale of the city property was never reported to us, so far as I am able to ascertain, hence the misunderstanding has never been explained.

The property in the city was bought at an early day at a high price when the purchase of property was very difficult. Now, it could not be sold for more than a few hundred taels. Besides we do not wish to sell it. After building and living outside the city, this property would still be well situated and desirable for a chapel, book room, opium refuge, &c. The matter is explained more fully in the accompanying appeal to the Prudential Committee.

When the appeal comes before the Committee for its consideration I should be glad if you would present the letters referred to in the appeal, viz; my own of Aug 1. 1895 and Mr Davises to you of a later date, as they explain phases of the situation only referred to in the appeal.

The glad news of the payment of the Board's debt brought joy and thanksgiving to all our hearts. What a joy it must be to those servants of Christ who have been entrusted with large means to come up to the help of the cause at such a time as we have passed through, and which, we pray, has gone never to return.

With best wishes for your personal health and happiness,

I am

Respectfully Yours,

Geo. L. Williams.

P.S. Will you kindly inform me whether the requirement of the Board that new members of the ~~Member~~ Mission be examined in a specified course of study includes Physicians or not?

Mission. [illegible]

friends I am able to ascertain, [illegible]

building has never been explained.

[illegible] the purchase of property

very difficult. [illegible] it could not be sold [illegible]

[illegible] not desirable for a chapel [illegible] refuge, &c. The matter is explained more fully in the accompanying appeal to the Property Committee.

When the appeal comes before the committee [illegible] present the letters referred to in the appealing [illegible] of Aug 1 [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] of a letter to you as they explain phases of the situation only referred to in the appeal.

The glad news of the payment of the Board's debt brought joy and thanksgiving to all our hearts. What a joy it must be to those servants of Christ who have been entrusted with large [illegible]

Taiku, May 7.

Rec'd June 27.

Taiku. June 3. 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.,

Dear Dr Smith:-

Your letter of March — was duly received. It has been misplaced and I must answer from memory. You inquired at the close of your letter as to what progress had been made in moving from the city. I have answered in more recent letters more fully and in our recent mission appeal to the Prudential Committee the conditions were fully explained. There is nothing more to be said. We are still in the city, preparing to go out soon for the summer as we did last year with the prospect of living next ~~year~~ winter as last. There seems to be no alternative unless we get the appropriation.

Dr. Hall is temporarily fixed at Li Man in by far the most suitable house for foreign dwelling in the village. The rest of the station, if we should go there, would have to build over unsuitable houses at great expense. While a goodly and increasing number of patients are going there for treatment, as they would go to a foreign Dr. at any place, Li Man is an out of the way and inconvenient point from which to do our Evangelistic Work. Besides it is only about 11 miles from Jen Tsun which would seem to insist to make a partial division of our field leaving large portions untouched. Dr Hall is compelled to keep making repairs and adding on to meet the demands of his growing work, which are only temporary. The same is true of us in the city and the plan demands anything but an economical use of the Boards' funds. People, both chinese and Foreign, frequently ask me why we are living in three separate places so near together and I must confess the surprise which prompts the question seems but natural. I am hoping and praying, now that the debt has been raised, the Board may make us the grant so urgently needed. In my opinion it means much for the future of our work. But I must be patient! Our life here is not calculated to develop that grace.

"I am happy to be able to report the steadfast purpose and faithful endurance of Brother Wang under persecution. He is a mat merchant in the city, and has been a simple, faithful christian for some three years. It is the custom of the city to demand the mat shops to furnish large straw mats for awnings at the annual theater held at the city Court House in the interests of idolatrous temple worship. On the morning of the 26th of May

✓

two official underlings called at his shop and notified Mr Wang that he was to furnish mats that day— He told them that as a christian he could not do it. They said he must or be beaten, and he replied that even then it would be impossible for him to do it. At noon they returned and took him to the Court House where he was chained with a heavy iron chain and placed under the schorching rays of the noonday sun. Mr Liu, our chinese helper, first heard of it and hastened at once to his aid. Then those of us who were at home met together in prayer for his deliverance. In about an hour Mr Liu returned and reported that on arriving at the Court House he found Mr Wang chained as above described and surrounded by a crowd of deriding, reviling roughs. Mr Liu said, "Ah! Wang Chang kuei ti, what brought you here?" On Mr Wang's replying that he had listened to God rather than man and refused to do an idolatrous act, Mr Liu said, "Well, we will ~~set~~ go in and see about it." On coming before the Authorities, with whom he was acquainted, Mr Liu said, "Your chaining and abusing my friend and fellow christian in this manner is just as though you treated *me* in the same way." Then they began to make false excuses saying they did not know that Mr Wang was a christian, and admitted that they had received orders from the Governor of the province to protect Christians according to Treaty rights. On learning that Mr Wang would not refuse to furnish mats for the regular Court House summer awnings, they released him and he returned with Mr Liu a happy man although he looked as though he had passed through, as he told me afterwards, a terrible experience.

The affair has brought the church and her principles into publicity, especially before the shopmen of the city, and we can but praise God for ~~His~~ the faithful example of her ideals held up to their gaze. We also thank Him for hearing prayer in delivering His servant before suffering severe torture. I have no doubt it was the object of the underlings to extort money, as is so common in China, and that they dared not go farther in this case. It is evident that the Officials are fully informed as to the rights of christians and their duty in regard to them, and I trust that, failing in this case, the effort may not be made again.

Last week I visited Mr Wang Chung, a church member living 20 miles north of Taiku, and found him much happier than when I 1st saw him two months ago – His older brother, a military graduate, who has professed Christ publicly but not yet been baptized was not at home but I learned nothing discouraging about him. While there I met three persons who, in their attitude toward Christianity, are representatives of three large classes of the Chinese. One, who was a scholar, said that the Jesus Doctrine was foolishness, that he himself knew more than Christ did. Another said that, if in his village out of 100 families 50 were Christian, his family would become Christian. The third class was represented by a woman who sometimes is willing to listen and sometimes is not, saying she is not ashamed to become a Christian but that it is very unimportant. The man who said that the Doctrine was foolishness reminds me of a scholar with a Chinese degree corresponding to our B. A. who spent a few days with us examining the Doctrine. Our faithful Teacher Liu told him one day about the resurrection. He scoffed at the idea and said it was impossible, entreating Mr Liu not to believe such a story. In the next prayer meeting Mr Liu was discoursing ~~about~~ on the same theme when this Confucian scholar turned to the man sitting beside him and said, "These be Es preaching that doctrine again, even after I told him it wasn't true."

I am glad to report that many of the recent Opium patients seem to be impressed with the truth under the faithful teaching of Mr Clapp and Mr Liu, and some seem to be somewhat convicted of Sin. Eleven have recently publicly expressed a desire to repent and become Christians. We can only patiently work and pray that they may be sincere. It is often so discouraging because there seems to be so little conviction of Sin in China and experience teaches that we must be very slow and cautious in baptizing and admitting to the church, while on the other hand we must not hinder any who have honest intentions. While I truthfully reported at the time the hopeful results of the week of prayer observed last January probably not more than 10 will be worthy of church membership as a result of those meetings.

With best wishes for yourself and family,

Believe me,

Faithfully Yours.

G. L. Williams.

[illegible] 188[illegible]

[illegible], China

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

[illegible] last communication [illegible]

[illegible] letters [illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible] Your sympathetic letter [illegible]

our prospect of removal from [illegible]

comfort [illegible] in our anxiety and [illegible]

[illegible] each of hope and encouragement

the recent reports of the [illegible] of the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] again told [illegible] in the [illegible]

referred to [illegible] "I hope [illegible] the [illegible]

will make a new estimate of what is [illegible]

in the way of [illegible]

[illegible] to the [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] in the form of an appeal to the

Prudential Committee [illegible] by a committee [illegible] for

the purpose at our last Annual Meeting in April [illegible]

was immediately forwarded to you. The [illegible]

[illegible] of more was asked for and the [illegible]

[illegible] features of the present [illegible]

and what is [illegible] with the [illegible] of

[illegible] of [illegible] again I [illegible]
[illegible]

I am glad to report that many of the people [illegible] seem to be impressed with the truth under the faithful teaching of the chapel and [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] have recently publicly professed [illegible] Christians. [illegible] and pray that they may be [illegible]. It is often [illegible] because there seems to be so little [illegible] of sin in them and [illegible] that [illegible] be very [illegible] about in baptizing and admitting to the church, while on the other hand we must not hinder any who have honest intentions. While I [illegible] hope [illegible] at the [illegible] the [illegible] results of the week of prayer [illegible] last January [illegible] not more than 10 [illegible] meetings of [illegible] were held [illegible] of the meetings.

With best wishes for yourself and family,
Believe me,
Faithfully Yours,
[illegible]

Taiku, June 3, 1896
Received July 27

August 1st 1896.
Linanchuang. China.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Our last courier brought me two letters from you in answer to mine of last March. Your sympathetic letters regarding our prospect of removal from Tiku city was a comfort to me in my anxiety and I read between the lines much of hope and encouragement. The recent reports of the receipts of the Board have also been more encouraging but the last Herald received again told a sad tale. In the letter above referred to you say, "I hope now that the station will make a new estimate of what is desirable in the way of premises, including the houses, and reduce it to the lowest terms and let us have this statement before us once more." Such a statement was made in the form of an appeal to the Prudential Committee by a committee elected for the purpose at our last Annual Meeting in April, and was immediately forwarded to you. The lump sum of $11,000 was asked for and "the situation, both the objectionable features of the present location and what is plainly necessary and the cost of a change when made" were plainly stated. I now fear, however, that the division of the $11.000 into the various amounts needed for Medical and School work, and Missionary houses, should have been made. At the time we wrote the appeal we did not think it necessary. I do pray that such an oversight may not have hindered the granting of the appropriation.

Much as we needed the appropriation when the appeal was made, our need this Fall is much more pressing. Our work is branching out and growing in a most gratifying and hopeful way. You may know that Mr C. W. Price, before he left so suddenly for America, was assisted in his School work at Fên Chou Fu by a graduate of the Tung Chou, North China, Schools. You ~~may~~ have probably also heard of the recent sudden collapse of the Main School building at Fên Chou Fu which has necessitated the closing of the school. Our brethren there now have no need of the services of the teacher and have offered him to us at Taiku. We have been praying for a long time for a teacher who could take the place of our Mr Liu in the Taiku School thus releasing Mr Liu for Evangelistic Work for which he is eminently fitted. At first it seemed impossible to take another family into our already overcrowded Courts, and it seemed almost folly to thus plan for enlarged work without one inch of room in which to grow. But how could we refuse? I wish I could put the question to every home church. We work and work, and pray and pray, year after year until "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," when the Lord in his own time answers prayer and opens up the way before us and fills us with glad hope and joy, and then, alas! the churches fail to come to our aid and refuse the paltry sum of money asked for necessary to move forward. It is hard indeed. Only a sublime faith in God can keep us at our posts under such conditions. Is it nothing to the churches who have sent us here that we should be thus hampered at every step?

We are told that, instead of welcoming a natural growth in the school and going forward, we must cut it down with a near prospect of shutting it up. We are told that the Medical work must remain stationary or be cut down. We are told that a well tried and earnest man who is providentially released from other work, cannot enter upon the ~~work of his~~ Evangelistic work which is the work of his heart. We are told that, after having tasted the joy of sacrifice that we might personally aid some branch of the work especially dear to our heart, we are not to be allowed longer to do so because our salaries must be cut down.

Is all this nothing to the home churches who have sent us here? It seems to me that they practice in very small measure the words of our Lord, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" and neither do they allow others to do so. I wonder how many Ministers go over the year book and look at the record. I have been chagrined and exasperated by a recent examination of the record of certain churches with which I am acquainted. I often wish that I might see many of these friends personally and endeavor to open their eyes that they might fairly see and realize the position in which they have placed ~~them~~ us.

The past ten days have been the most trying I have yet experienced in China because of the great heat and drought. The nights have been almost as hot as the days making it difficult to secure rest and strength. There have been three cases of Malarial fever on the Compound, two of which were foreigners. Last week the people of a neighboring large town besought their gods for rain and performed various ceremonies. The god of rain was taken from the temple and borne by a procession to look upon the dry fields and parched crops, and then was left out in the hot sun that he might find out how hot and dry it was. The Magistrate also forbade the killing of beef until it should rain. And yet the rains did not come.

But even now as I write a most refreshing shower is in progress bringing blessing to all this region.

Our brother Wang, the mat merchant about whose persecution I wrote you recently, is still in trouble. The other Matshops of the city have combined against him and threaten to accuse him before the Magistrate because he refuses to give his share of Mats for awnings for theaters held in the interests of idol worship which are demanded of the mat shops without remuneration.

~~summers~~ Five school boys were recently taken on probation, also five men at the Tsung Fang outstation, besides seven men at Chē Wang.

We have now been nearly two months here at Li Man with the Halls. Dr Hall has continued his Clinics and Opium refuge work during the hot weather thus far, and daily Bible instruction has been given the patients. We hope that some new villages will open up this fall for regular visitation through this summer work.

Believe me,

Very truly Yours.

G. L. Williams.

[illegible], China
[illegible]

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Secretary Smith:

The purport of the [illegible] written in regard to our appeal for money [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. We must wait and I may the Lord help us to do so with patience. But not [illegible] could do otherwise than they did with so many other demands. Everything is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the church to make provision for. They [illegible] enlightened and aroused largely by the joint co-operation of the Secretaries at home and the missionaries abroad. Where have we failed in the past and can we employ new methods in the future? [illegible] wish I could be at home and personally [illegible] very [illegible] much need. [illegible] will do the best [illegible] with our present accommodations and remember your suggestion to keep it [illegible] before the committee hoping at no distant day the appropriation may be granted.

The native merchant of whom I have written you on two previous occasions in visiting [illegible]

Ans'd Dec/6. [illegible]

[illegible] the school boys were recently [illegible] at the [illegible] besides seven men [illegible] the way.

We have now been nearly two months here at [illegible] with the Halls. Dr Hall has continued [illegible] during the hot weather therefore, and daily Bible instruction has been given the patients. We hope that [illegible] will take up this post for regular [illegible] through this summer etc.

Believe me

Very truly Yours.

G. L. Hill

Rec'd Sep. 29.

T'aiku, Shansi,
Oct. 29th 1896.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D,
Dear Secretary Smith:-

The report of the sub-committee in regard to our appeal for money is recieved and brings sorrow and bitter disappointment. We must wait and may the Lord help us to do so with patience. I do not see how the committee could do otherwise than they did with no money at their disposal. Anything is better than running into debt. We cannot go further in our work than the churches make provision for. They must be enlightened and aroused largely by the joint co-operation of the Secretaries at home and the missionaries abroad. Where have we lacked in the past, and can we employ new methods in the future? I often wish I could be at home and personally solicit the money we so much need. We will do the best we can with our present accommodations and remember your suggestion to keep ~~it~~ our need before the committee hoping at no distant day the appropriation may be granted.

The matmerchant of whom I have written you on two previous occasions is making steady ad-

~~vancement in the Christian life~~. Not long since he arose in prayermeeting and said that his mind had long been ill at ease on the question of keeping the Sabbath and that he had decided to make a pronounced stand. On the following Sabbath the doors of his shop were closed and a conspicuous red poster pasted upon them announced to the public the reasons for closing. Large numbers of men read it, some with wonder, but many with sneers of derision. His family, many employed in his shop, and all of his neighbors call him a fool for being so deceived by the foreigners, but he is firm and seems to be thoroughly and intelligently converted.

An old brother in the church, living in a village two miles west of Taiku, has recently suffered persecution. He refused to pay his temple taxes. The village elders were incensed at him, and, being unusually bigoted, were bold enough to put up a notice to the effect that the property of any who refused to pay their temple dues would not be protected. The following night four acres of the poor man's crops were stolen. Of course the church made it an affair at the Yamen, and after many vain promises and almost endless prevarication on the part of officials and village ~~underlings~~ elders,

~~and~~ of damages were paid and the affair was settled with approximate justice. Whenever, in any village, a man becomes a christian and refuses to support the temple idols this same endless trouble of quibbling & lying and petty persecution has to be met with before an understanding is effected. Those in authority are slow to learn that they must respect and protect the Christians.

"Another annoying case of ~~contemptible~~ persecution recently occured. A man was selling christian books at a temple theater here in the city. His books were spread out for inspection on a cloth in the street when a man catching hold of a corner of the cloth with a jerk scattered the books in the mud. This case also was taken to the Yamen. Underlings brought the books which had been picked up back and wished to hush the matter up saying that the book seller would be allowed to go on with his ~~books~~ business unmolested. Deacon Liu*, who takes the lead in church affairs, was inexorable and demanded that the culprit be punished, and that the books be carried back to the theater by the Yamen men and spread out again for sale. The books were brought to deacon Liu three

[illegible] *Liu)

separate times with new protestations and promises and as many times refused. At last the terms were acceded to. The man was lead with a chain around his neck through the streets to our compound where he k'o towed to Mr Liu and the books were spread out for sale to the satisfaction of the bookseller as demanded. Afterwards, however, it was discovered that the man punished was not the real culprit but an underling hired for the purpose. The real culprit was a shopkeeper of means who, by paying a sum of money, bribed the official to hire the underling to act as a substitute."

The Chinese, though for the most part poor, are generally sympathetic and generous. Recently, in our prayer meetings, the terrible persecution and consequent distress of the Armenians was related and a contribution for their relief asked for. In Taiku, Jên Tsun and Li Man $11.38 gold was willingly subscribed every cent of which was quickly paid.

With best wishes I am,

Faithfully Yours.
G. L. Williams.

Taiku, Oct. 27. 1896.
Rec'd Dec 22.

Taiku, Shansi.
Jan 7th 1897.

Rev. Dr. Smith,
dear Secy:-

The past week I have spent in visiting some villages and find everywhere more to encourage than to dishearten. Nan Chang a village five miles south of Taiku is opening to the Gospel. It came about in this way. In the early fall a clean, welldisposed young man of the place, who realized that he was becoming addicted to the opium habit, came to us for treatment in the Opium Refuge. In due time he was cured, and on leaving, begged that a younger brother might also come to be treated. As the Refuge was full at the time I told him I would go to their village on the following day to let him know when he could be received. My object in thus arranging the matter, and going myself, was to secure a cordial reception that I might present the claims of the Gospel. ¶ On the following day, accompanied by a Native helper, I ~~accordingly~~ went. As we approached the village we were met by a ~~memb~~ member of the family who politely escorted us to their house where we were cordially received and the Gospel proclaimed to many of the Village people. The younger brother was soon treated for the opium habit and so successfully that the oldest son of the Family was led to follow his example. The aged Father is very happy over the result and always makes us welcome to his house.

Last week he said that others in the village wished to hear more of the doctrine. On meeting with them I found an unusual spirit of questioning and discussion which was delightful, as the average Chinaman on first hearing the Gospel will hypocritcally assent to every thing you say. One man said to me, "Your doctrine is no different from ours, but you don't know it. You only call things by different names. You say 'The Lord of Heaven' while we say 'the Ruler of the Sky'. Your Jesus is no other than our Yü Wang. We pray to Heaven and Earth while you pray to your God. It is all the same." ¶ "Are Heaven and Earth intelligent Beings"? I asked. ¶ "Certainly," he replied. ¶ "Well, can they hear and answer prayer?" ¶ "Who knows", he answered, "And who knows whether your God hears and answers you"? ¶ "Well, how about the doctrine of forgiveness of sin?" ¶ "Oh, we haven't that doctrine", he admitted, "But that isn't of much consequence there is very little difference." ¶ Another man condescendingly ~~told me~~ praised our "foreign doctrine" in that it helped men to break off from opium and taught men to do good but ridiculed the doctrines of the miraculous birth and resurrection of Christ.

It is refreshing to meet with men who thus argue and object. When they begin to *think* and *compare* christianity with their own religions there is life and hope.

During Christmas week, several evenings were given up to lantern exhibitions in the chapel and one evening was reserved for friends from this village. More than forty men and boys walked in five miles and back again the same evening their interest was so great. Since then two visits have been made to the village with increasing numbers of inquiring hearers. We shall follow up the opening at Nan Chang Tsun with interest.

We are now in the midst of the Week of Prayer. The meetings are quiet and thoughtful with perhaps the presence of the Holy Spirit felt in a less marked degree than last year, and yet every night inquirers have asked for the prayers of christians on their behalf. In the first meeting four publicly professed Christ: a servant, two opium patients and my personal teacher. He is a Confucian scholar of exceptional standing and ability; a kind, fair minded man, who has been inclined to put "our Jesus" (as he was wont to say) on a level with Confucius "the Holy Man". He has been addicted to the use of opium for more than thirty years and recently attempted to break off trusting in his own strength and the use of pills bought in Tientsin claiming to be of English concoction. He made his boasts that he had broken off without suffering and at half the expense of a course of treatment in the Opium Refuge. But alas! the terrible agony, proof of his sincere purpose as well as the groundlessness of his trust, came upon him and he piteously begged Mr Clapp to give him the needle. Utterly broken in spirit and body, he entered the Refuge and took the regular course, suffering doubly what he would have done had he been wiser. He now humbly expresses repentance of sin and reliance upon God, it is to be hoped with sincerity.

At the second meeting, three expressed a desire to become christians; a schoolboy, a carter and a store clerk. The next evening another clerk from a neighboring shop, and last evening a literary graduate from a town ten miles away took the same stand.

I have mentioned them all that you may know what sort of people are enquiring the way of life.

Experience teaches us that we must be very cautious in dealing with these professors. We are constantly distressed with the fear that they are insincere. of those who have had most experience have come to the conclusion that it is best to keep such as have broken off the use of opium waiting a full year before even taking them on probation. Those of the teacher class so often make professions simply with the hope of securing a position with the foreigners that we are filled with suspicion. Our confidence is so often misplaced that we sometimes undoubtedly seem cold and indifferent. The work has so many disheartening features that sometimes we simply have to press forward and work, work, not allowing ourselves to ~~consider~~ stop one moment to consider results or we should faint by the way. But it is not always so. We also have our hours of encouragement when the work looks bright. Such Christians as Teacher Liu (last letter u not n) always preaching the blessed word, Teacher Tee slow but spiritual, Merchant Wang strong in faith and steadfast in persecution, and Mr Wang openhearted and conscientious, fill us with ~~hope~~ faith in God and hope in the final regeneration of China.

You have long since heard by cablegram of the terrible blow that has come to the Mission in the sudden removal of Mrs Atwater by death. The care of four motherless little girls compells Mr Atwater to decide to return to America in the early spring. Coming just at this time it seems especially disastrous to the work. With the Thompsons and Prices in America and the Davises and Miss Bird going home with Mr Atwater for their furloughs, the Mission will be cut down in numbers exactly one half. We look for the return of the Thompsons however next fall. Mr Davises' work as Mission treasurer must be kept up and taken as an additional duty by some other member of the Mission. I say additional for how can we drop work more than must be cut off by those necessarily absent. Miss Bird's absence will be most keenly felt in the School. Dr Atwood and family will be left alone at Fen chou Fu where two years ago three families were stationed. We must not complain of Gods' dealings with us, and I trust that He will open the way for the speedy return of those who have been so sadly called away from their work.

I remain, Very Sincerely Yours,

G. L. Williams.

Foo Chow April 9, 1877.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Secy A. B. C. F. M.

Dear Dr. Smith,—

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] before this received full particulars from [illegible] [illegible] Secretary and others of the Annual meeting [illegible] with earlier [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with us the members of the Mission [illegible] [illegible] on their homeward journey. The most interesting and perplexing question we had to deal with was how to [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the expanding work.

We were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] that the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 1877 be limited to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 1877 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] kindly authorized [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of expense for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] 1877 [illegible] that the members [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] than one half of the [illegible] in the [illegible] Statement.

With the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

You have long since heard by telegram of the terrible blow that has come to the Mission in the sudden removal of [illegible] by death. The necessity for [illegible] & little [illegible] compels [illegible] to decide to return to America in the early spring. Coming just at this time it seems especially disastrous to the work. With the Thompsons and [illegible] going home with [illegible] for their furloughs the Mission will be [illegible] acting in behalf. [illegible] look for the return of the Thompsons however next fall. [illegible] must be kept up and taken as an additional duty by some other member of the Mission. Any additional [illegible] work now there must be cut off by this necessity. [illegible] absence will be most keenly felt in the School, [illegible] and families will be left alone at Tai-ku [illegible] two years ago [illegible] families were stationed. We must not complain of God's dealings with us, and I trust that He will open the way for the speedy return of those who have been so sadly called away from their work.

I remain, Yours sincerely,

G. L. Williams

Tai-ku, Jan. 7. 1887
Rec'd March 15

Jên Tsun, April 9. 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D,
Sec'y A. B. C. F. M.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

You have doubtless before this received full particulars from the Mission Secretary and others of the Annual Meeting held a month earlier than the regular date that we might have with us the members of the Mission about to start on their homeward journey. The most distressing and perplexing question we had to deal with was how to adjust the reduced appropriations to the expanding work.

We were forced to pass the following resolutions,

(1) Res. that the expense for general work for 1897 be limited to 56.5726% of the original estimates and that each member of the Mission bear his own deficit and that all who audit statements are hereby authorized to refuse to pass any statement of expense for general work amounting to more than 56.5726% of the original estimates for 1897.

(2) Res. that no member shall be allowed to bring in more than one half of his allowance on the June statement.

With the work pressing in every department what is to be done with barely more than half the money needed to meet its demands? There is a general spirit among the members of the Mission to go ahead and make up the deficiency from our own salaries. But is it wise to do this? A large deficiency last year was met in this way. When we realize that it comes out of our already reduced salaries the difficulty is evident. One of two things is inevitable; Either we must economize to a dangerous degree, or we must run in debt to the Board.

You have before this received the Resolution made at Annual Meeting renewing the request for a grant for the purchase of land and the erection of wall and buildings for the Tái ku Station. Estimates of the cost of the various buildings were made and specified in the request. The first item of $1000.^{00} for land & walling in was intended as an answer to the recent request of the sub-Committee on Missions in China that ~~we~~ search be made and an estimate of the cost of purchase and walling in of suitable land be immediately forwarded to them in the hope that it might be granted at once. I fear that the Committee did not make this sufficiently clear and that the

Sub-Committee may think their request is still unanswered.

The Annual Report of the A.B.C.F.M. for 1896 has reached us. I am surprised to see among the statistics for the Shansi Mission, "Native Contributions $5.00". That was only the amount of the Sabbath Contributions of the Taiku Church, and I think was reported as such by myself. Several have expressed regret at such a partial report, but the fault doubtless is due to our own carelessness and I trust it will be remedied another year. The whole report of our Mission seems to me to be strangely brief, meager, and incomplete. Is it because no compiled report is made here on the field and forwarded?

Today has been a busy day. We are occupying the Davis house at Fên Chou for a few months during their absence until the Thompsons shall return in the autumn. A great five days fair is now being held in the town. Today we entertained at dinner 19 church members and friends who came from their village to attend the fair.
It makes one hotly indignant to read criticisms of Missionaries, that they never eat with nor otherwise come into personal contact with the

natives. During our residence in Shansi of more than five years I have only seen one foreigner other than Missionaries and that one I saw in Tai Yuen Fu the capital of the province.

Our lives here would indeed be hard if we did not have personal and familiar relations with the natives.

With kind regards,

Believe me,

Very truly yours,

G. L. Williams.

Rec'd May 28.

Taiku, Shansi, China.
October. 2nd 1897.

Rev. Judson Smith, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sec'y Smith:-

On my return from a tour in the Ching Yüan district I learned through our Secretary, Mr. Atwater, the contents of the report of the sub-committee on Missions in China with reference to the purchase of premises and the erection of buildings in Taiku. Before starting on my tour I heard through Mr Clapp that a grant had been made but the amount was not stated. During the week I was intensely excited through suspense, alternately hoping and fearing as to the amount granted, but hope prevailed and I came home with a plan of my new house drawn up feeling sure that the grant must cover it.

We are truly thankful for $1,000 with which to provide the site, but of what use is land without buildings upon it? But surely it means, and we have the assurance of it in the report, that the Board fully intends to grant the money for buildings also as soon as possible.

One sentence interlined in the Report was painful to read. The sum was granted "provided the Mission is convinced that the station is to be permanently occupied." The fact that this ~~quotation~~ remark was put in after the report was written proves that it was the result of discussion. I would be glad to know the source or ground of such a doubt on the part of the committee. Will you kindly tell me in your answer to this note? I consider the station to be permanently occupied and the work thoroughly grounded. The five years of service which I have so rejoiced in giving to this station, to say nothing of the more abundant labors of my associates, and the opening work in so many encouraging lines, make the provision in the report exceedingly painful to me.

The demands of the work and other considerations make it necessary for me to move my wife and children into the old, close, city quarters for another winter.

I truly hope that the committee may be able ~~to~~ *immediately* to begin granting money for buildings to be erected on the site already provided. Cannot $3,500 be *immediately* granted for the first house and accompanying buildings (as gatehouse) which are necessary for general use?

Anxiously Yours,

G. L. Williams.

T'aiku, Oct. 2. 1897.
Rec'd Dec. 6.

T'aiku, Oct. 2. 1897.

Taiku, Shansi, China.
Dec. 9. 1897.

Secretary Judson Smith, D. D,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:—

I am happy to be able to report progress at the Tun Fang Out Station. A most promising day school has recently been started. The people had for a long time been desirous of opening a school in a portion of the village where very few were able to send their children to the native schools. The mission could do little to help, having no teacher to offer and little money in hand with which to pay him or provide a schoolroom. At last the people chose one of their own number as teacher and provided a room, including fire and furnishing. We offered to help in the teachers salary to the extent of 55 cts a year per pupil according to the number of pupils up to twenty. To our surprise they did not like the plan but ~~professed~~ preferred to be more independent pledging among themselves as much as each one felt inclined to do for the support of the school. Thus the whole amount needed was raised excepting 60 cts a month which we were glad to contribute. The school is by their own wish a *free* school to which the poorest children can freely come. The school is full, the number being limited only by the accommodations. The name of the School — "The Taiku Congregational Free School" — is also of their own choice. We rejoice that there is so little suggestion of the foreigner about it.

The Christians at this place, although holding membership in the Taiku city church have regular Sabbath services in their own village. There is an unusual spirit of goodfellowship both among themselves and with us. Some time ago while making a short tour among the villages in that section we arrived at this place just after dark. Passing along the main street in search of the village inn we came to the store of Mr Wen, out of the open door of which there suddenly rushed five or six men scarcely recognizable in the dusk, who surrounded us, one seizing my horse by the bridle and another that of Helper Wang Chung, and dragged us in not listening to our *rather* weak (I confess) *protestations*. To my great surprise I found 17 seventeen church friends gathered together for their weekly prayermeeting which they had themselves started, and at which no foreigner had ever before been present, and which our unexpected arrival found them faithfully sustaining. After the meeting, in which many heartily took part, a warm supper was most hospitably prepared and served. One horse was cared for on the place and the other taken home by a neighbor. The next morning on arising early we found another warm hearted church-member already come to escort us to his home for breakfast. Oh! the joy of meeting thus with our christian brethren who, although so recently reclaimed from heathenism, give us such hospitable welcome and brotherly love! Let no one ask the missionary himself the doubting question whether missions pay!

A recent visit to Ching Yuan found the opium refuge, run by Helper Iu, full of patients who gave an attentive ear to the gospel truth presented. Several villages in this region represented by men who have gone through the refuge have interested enquirers, especially the villages of Nan ching tui, Tung ching tui, Wu, and Kien, and the village of Nan ching tui desires a christian school.

The work here in Taiku city is keeping along steadily. Several have recently arisen in meetings and professed repentance and a desire to follow christ,- some being undoubtedly genuine but others seem to think it a way of expressing thanks to us for helping them to overcome the opium habit and have no real desire to become Christians.

We have now been in Taiku five years. Great changes have taken place during that time. The work is progressing with many setbacks to be sure, but slowly and surely the Gospel is winning its way. Possibly you will be interested in a description of some individual christians. Brother Wang has a mat shop opposite the city chapel on the South street. His shop has been closed on Sundays for the past year, a great red poster on the closed door giving the reason to all who pass by. Recently a bakery, opened by three men not yet baptized, has also closed its door on the Sabbath. The mat merchants wife is bitterly opposed and accuses the foreigners of deceiving her husband and taking the bread out of their children mouths - Not long since when deacon Liu went to their village to exhibit magic lantern pictures she ceased not to storm and revile. Their oldest boy is in the Taiku school. Their third child, being a girl and being born on an unlucky day was, in the absence of the father, drowned in a tub of water by the unnatural mother. In a recent prayer meeting Brother Wang said the thing he desired most was the conversion of his wife.

Two years ago the three largest boys in school were all professing christians. One night there was a robbery in Mr Clapps court, 10 Taels in silver being stolen. The day following Pêng Ling, one of these three boys, proved to be the robber. He was dismissed Another one, Meng Jung, was taken out of school by his father who was also a church member because he lost a position as gatekeeper on the Compound. Meng Jung had to enter a shop where his first duty was to worship the god of wealth. This was the beginning of his downward course which we pray God may yet be arrested because Meng Jung was a lad of promise. The third boy is doing nobly preparing for his lifework of preaching the Gospel. He had strength enough to refuse his heathen father when commanded to leave the school and enter business.

" Mr Lin, a bookkeeper in a large village store, was converted two years ago. He then had to face the question of leaving a lucrative position or of disowning Christ and worshipping idols. (Every one in the employ of a shop, large or small, *must* worship the god of wealth in the shop.) Friends and relatives all on one side and the proprietors of the store, offering promotion with advanced salary. Only a few paternal acres in a mountain village for his support, and shame and persecution with Christ on the other side. He was long in deciding but at last came out on the Lords side and is growing daily in the truth as it is in Jesus.

Mr Tu, for a time my personal teacher, and a baptised church member, was discovered to be grossly immoral and has sunk in drunkenness and debauchery.

|| Mr Wang was a "Village terror" and proprietor of a gambling tent. He has been cured of the opium habit, and is truly converted as evinced by a complete change of character and reputation. His wife is of the same mind and peculiarly receptive of the truth. Their eldest son, a fine lad, is in ~~the~~ Taiku Boarding School.

Deacon ~~Liu~~ Liu was cured of the opium habit after eating it twenty years. Converted eight years ago at the age of forty five, he is wonderfully instructed in the Scriptures and takes deep hold of Spiritual truth. He is the strong pillar of the Taiku church, an eloquent, fearless preacher, a true and tried helper in every line of christian activity. His wife is a woman of strong character who left off opium without assistance before her conversion, an honest and wise christian woman. Their daughter-in-law has unbound her feet in the face of opposition and ridicule on the part of all except her own immediate family-

"Helper Wang Chung was converted four years ago and thereby lost a good position in business. He is now a quiet, studious christian exerting a greater influence through his life than by his words. His elder brother, his servant, and his friend have all come into the fold through his influence. His wife is no true helpmeet ~~but~~ and mourns over temporal losses which christianity has brought upon them.

Helper Toui is another, modest, quiet young man, who serves the Lord without ostentation. In three months he visited 60 different villages, some of them several times, besides the 12 Sundays on which days he always preached once, and often twice.

Helper Tu runs an opium refuge alone by himself at Ching Yuan twenty miles away from the Missionary who visits him once a month. Several Villages in that district are now open to the Gospel through his efforts.

Mrs Liu the wife of the Helper in the medical work at Li man was a pupil in the Bridgman School at Peking. She is a power for good among the women, a worthy helpmeet to her husband who is a graduate of the North China College at Tungchou.

My present teacher, an old Confucian Scholar of high standing, is deeply impressed with the teachings of "our Jesus" as he ~~calls~~ says, but I fear does not yet put him above Confucius.

Mr Chang a man whom I admire and respect is a devout Taoist although he has been a regular attendant on our church Services at Tun Fang for two years. He seems to be a devout man, diligently seeking for the truth. If we bow our heads in prayer he will stand with folded hands thinking it a more reverent attitude. If it rains in the night he arises to thank his divinities whom he strangely mixes up with the true idea of God. He never eats meat, and to take the ~~and to take the~~ life of any creature whom God has made is a terrible sin. I have fondly hoped for two years that he would accept Christ as the perfection of all that he is striving after, but alas! although he often seems near it I fear he is really far away trusting in the merit of his own good deeds.

Mr. Wen, the lame man, is able and very officious in church matters. He helps the poor, and doctors the sick and tells every body what to do and how to do it but I often fear the root of the matter is not in him. His son, also the head of a family, is like the father.

Mr Tung, also a lame man, has searched the Scriptures with unusual zeal and profit but has sadly fallen again into the opium habit. In this respect he is like many, many others of our Christians. Truly many are bound by this awful curse as though in the deadly folds of some huge serpent.

Mr. Li criticises all his brethren and mourns their shortcomings. After careful observation I fear his own main object in ~~judging~~ joining the church is pecuniary benefit.

And so on. I might go through the entire list, but you ~~will~~ are already weary. You will perceive our Christians have much in common with those of other lands. Let us not be too critical of their faults, nor too much discouraged by their shortcomings.

I am now reading carefully the book of Acts in connection with the epistles of Paul. Our Taiku church is much like those primitive churchs. I believe it is truly founded in the Lord and is being guided by the Holy Spirit. When you pray for us and give for us and think about us be assured that it is worth your while for the church of the Living God and His Christ in China is a reality.

Richilieu said; "In the bright lexicon of youth there's no such word as fail." Of all people in the world the soldiers of Christ should most ignore that word fail. Of all causes in the world which occupy the thoughts and efforts of men ours is the most sure of success.

Already there are some 70000 Christians in China. Our Taiku church now holding Sabbath services at 7 seven points, is a humble part of the whole, but we have faith to believe is destined to grow and bring blessing and salvation to this whole region.

I am,

Yours in the Masters service,

G. L. Williams.

Taiku, Shansi,

Dec. 13th 1897.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Saturday I visited a few converts at Hsiai Fen, a village 8 miles north of here, and found them in various phases of Christian living, many [illegible] satisfactory.

Wang Chung, who is a bigamist, having married a second wife because the first one refused to live with him before he knew anything about Christianity, is carrying the load of a troubled conscience. He will always support both wives although he lives with but one feeling that it would be wrong to divorce either as things are in China. Yet to teach others the truth which he thinks he himself fails to live up to, he believes to be inconsistent and displeasing in the sight of [illegible].

Wang Ching, his eldest brother greatly rejoiced my heart. When converted he was engaged in some disreputable court business. He soon got out of that but for a year or two failed to get started in any respectable business, exemplifying the difficulty in any country of one who is down being able to get a start in the upward course. Four months ago he succeeded in opening a butcher shop and bakery by their shortcomings

I am now reading carefully the book of Acts in connection with the Epistles of Paul. Our Taiku church is much like those primitive churchs. I believe it is truly founded in the Lord and is being guided by the Holy Spirit. When you pray for us and give for us and think about us be assured that it is worth your while for the church of the Living God and His Christ in China is a reality.

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Already there are some 70000 Christians in China. Our Taiku church now holding Sabbath services at 7 seven points, is a humble part of the whole, but we have faith to believe is destined to grow and bring blessing and salvation to this whole region.

I am,

Yours in the Masters service,

G. L. Williams.

Taiku Shansi,

Dec 13th 1897

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Saturday I visited a few converts at Huai Jen, a village 3 miles south of here, and found them in various phases of Christian living, some in a [illegible] state [illegible].

Wang Ching, who is a bigamist having married a second wife because the first one refused to live with him before he knew anything about Christianity, is carrying the load of a troubled conscience. He willingly supports both wives although he lives with but one, feeling that it would be wrong to divorce either as things are in China. Yet to teach others the truth which he thinks he himself fails to live up to, he believes to be inconsistent and displeasing in the sight of God.

Wang Ching, the elder brother greatly rejoiced my heart. When converted he was engaged in some disreputable [illegible] business. He soon got out of that but for a year or two failed to get started in any respectable business, exemplifying the difficulty in any country of one who is down being able to get a start in the upward course. Four months ago he succeeded in opening a [illegible] shop and bakery.

by their Christian [illegible].

I am [illegible] reading [illegible] the book of Acts in connection with the [illegible] of Paul. [illegible] is much like the [illegible] chapter. I believe it [illegible] and [illegible] the Lord and is being guided by the Holy Spirit [illegible]

[illegible] the church of the living God [illegible] your [illegible] and [illegible] Christ [illegible] in [illegible].

Whittier said, "[illegible] the bright [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] God." Of all [illegible] in the world [illegible] of all [illegible] in the world which [illegible] the [illegible] and efforts of [illegible] is the most [illegible] of men [illegible] there [illegible] Christians [illegible] [illegible] we have faith to believe is destined to grow and bring blessing and salvation to this whole region.

[illegible]

Yours in the Master's service,
G. L. Williams.

Salem, Dec. 9, 1897
Rec'd Jan. 31-98

Taiku, Shansi,
Dec. 13th. 1897.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Saturday I visited a few converts at Huai Jên, a village 18 miles north of here, and found them on various planes of christian living, some more and some less satisfactory.

Wang Chung, who is a bigamist having married a second wife because the first one refused to live with him before he knew anything about christianity, is carrying the load of a troubled conscience. He willingly supports both wives although he lives with but one feeling that it would be wrong to divorce either as things are in China. Yet to teach others the truth which he thinks he himself fails to live up to, he belives to be inconsistent and displeasing in the sight of God.

Wang Ching, his edest brother, greatly rejoiced my heart. When converted he was engaged in some disreputable court business. He soon got out of that but for a year or two failed to get started in any respectable business, exemplifying the difficulty in any country of one who is down being able to get a start in the upward course. Four months ago he succeeded in opening a butcher's shop and bakery in which he is doing very well. His happy, plump face bore evidence both to his peace of mind and release from the opium habit with which he was formerly ensnared. Truly the Gospel has power to reform and uplift even in seemingly hopeless old China.

I found Mr. Ho in trouble. He is a trusting, simple old man whose sons and daughters-in-law are bitterly opposed to christianity. There is a heathen custom observed in China of giving a feast and worshipping the idols when a male child in the family is one month old. The day of my visit happened to be the very day for observing these rites in honor of Mr Ho's grandson. The mother of the babe insisted on the grandfathers burning paper and worshipping the idols which he not only refused to do but tore down the idols and burned them. The grandmother was a willing witness to the deed but the enraged sons retaliated by seizing the old mans christian books and destroying them in the fire. On my arrival I was glad to find him undisturbed in mind saying frankly that he forgave them and did not wish to make any trouble about it. Coming back in the evening by the way of Jên Tsun I remained with Mr. Thompson over night and went from there on Sunday morning to our regular appointment at Chê Wang. Not many were out to service owing to the severe cold. The chapel is a large barn like room heated by an open brick stove in the center of the room having neither pipe nor chimney. The fuel burned is a dried brick made of coal dust and earth mixed with water. We all sat around the stove on backless benches breathing the fumes of the fire and had our service which took a conversational form proving more helpful to all present than many more formal services.

Jany 7th., 1898.

I held this letter over one courier hoping to give you an account of a trip to the Ching Yuan field where seven men (the first in that district) were taken on probation but the days have been too full of other work to admit of it. The addition of the Treasurers work in the absence of Mr. Davis to my evangelistic work gives little time for letter writing. We are now in the midst of the week of prayer holding meetings every evening. Christmas was a very enjoyable event this year. We entertained 60 odd chinese guests. The Sunday following was full of interest 19 being received on probation and 8 into the church by baptism.

Sincerely Yours, G. L. Williams.

Taiku, Dec. 13 - 1897

Rec'd Mch. 7-98

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Taiku. Shansi.
Jan'y 7. 1898.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

Rejoice with us! We have succeeded in purchasing about six acres of land in the South Suburb of Taiku at a remarkably low price. At first we met with many difficulties and unexpected ~~obstacles~~ obstructions arising from fears on the part of the "ignorant, superstitious people, but at last the way suddenly opened to a very satisfactory bargain. The district Magistrate has not hindered the purchase. Now we are ready to go forward with building. The last reports of the financial condition of the Board fill us with hope for a speedy appropriation. Can we not have sir immediately? Every year of delay hinders the growth of the work. Our accommodations seem to grow smaller for the expanding work and our health is becoming impaired.

Mrs Williams heath is precarious this winter and we cannot but look forward with anxiety and fear of the necessity of a two early home coming. We have been here but six years and wish to remain three more. Under the present conditions it is doubtful if we shall be able to do so.

The need of a speedy appropriation is real and imperative.

Miss Partridge is writing you as to the advisability of sending out her brother this ~~[illegible]~~ year. I am much interested in the matter and strongly advise that it be done. If his debt is not too large, he can raise it after reaching the field with careful management, I am sure, under the favorable circumstances in which he will be placed for the first year or two, living with his sister who is equipped for housekeeping.

The expanding work will require a man to take my place when we come home for a furlough. If he waits a year longer before coming out, the time will be short for his preparation to take up the work.

Yours Sincerely,
G. L. Williams.

[illegible]

[illegible] 31st 189[illegible]

Mr. Andrew Smith

[illegible]

Dear Mr. Smith:—

[illegible]

[illegible] great pleasure of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] blessed of

God in the great advancement of [illegible]

[illegible] cannot be [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] a folding bed, [illegible]

[illegible] at your disposal, and

[illegible]

[illegible] the position of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] questions which [illegible]

[illegible] and which [illegible]

would be [illegible] for a committee, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] that your [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Taiku Jan. 7-1898

Rec'd Mch. 7

Taiku, Shansi.
March. 31st 1898.

Rev. Judson Smith.
Tientsin,

Dear Dr. Smith:—

Welcome, Thrice Welcome to China! It is a great pleasure to know you may be in Tientsin even now as I write.

May your visit to the China Missions be blessed of God to the great advancement of His Kingdom! While your coming into the interior cannot be wholly comfortable and agreeable, the comforts of travel such as a good cook, a folding cot bed, foreign stores, and a roomy litter, will be at your disposal, and the trip will be quite novel and enjoyable. Personally I consider the question of your coming to us as of great moment. There are, at this crisis in our Mission affairs, several questions which we wish to discuss with you personally and which it would be impossible for a committee, sent to Tung Chou to confer with you, to settle.

Indeed we all feel that your failure to come to us for any reason would be a calamity. There are questions before us concerning methods of work on which we need light and guidance the settlement of which will seriously affect the whole future of our work. Besides these questions it is very desirable that you should see the present missionary premises and *know* our needs that you may be able to intelligently represent our cause at home.

Do come! I cannot think that you will not.

Wishing you health and strength of body and much joy even in the weariness of travel in this benighted land, and earnestly praying that nothing may prevent your coming to us, truly one of the China Missions of the Board though a small one,

I am, most sincerely
and cordially yours in the Master's cause.

G. L. Williams.

Jên Tsun, July 11th 1891.

Secy Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Dr Smith:

We hope to hear very soon of your safe arrival in Boston. We arrived and I reached home in good health after an uneventful journey. A few light rains in the mountains made the roads slippery for a day but they were not bad enough to give any serious trouble. We have had fine weather for travelling until now when there are indications of the rainy season setting in. [illegible] When [illegible] from Jên Tsun, we were met by a special courier saying that Mrs. Williams was ill and urging me to hasten on. I found her better, but in a rather serious condition. She is not strong [illegible] more than a year. Last week she was able to go to Tai Ku to attend the wedding of Mr. Atwater and Miss Graham where she is remaining a few days for a change. I am anxious lest the ~~[illegible]~~ rains hinder her return.

On arriving home I immediately consulted with my brethren about the building which the grant has provided for. It seems too late to make an [illegible] to finish for occupancy this

Rev. W. E. Williams
Taiku, March 31-1898
Filed July 30

Jên Tsun, July 11th 1898.

Sec'y Judson Smith, D.D.,
Dear Dr. Smith:-

We hope to hear soon of your safe arrival in Boston. Dr. Atwood and I reached home in good health after an uneventful journey. A few light rains in the mountains made the roads slippery for a day but they were not hard enough to impede our progress. We have had fine weather for travelling until now when there are indications of the rainy season setting in, rather later than usual. At Shou Yang, two days from Jên Tsun, we were met by a special courier saying that Mrs. Williams was ill and urging me to hasten on. I found her better but in a rather serious condition. She is not strong for more than a year now. Last week she was able to go to Tai Yuen fu to attend the wedding of Mr. Atwater and Miss. Graham where she is remaining a few days for a change. I am anxious lest the ~~season~~ rains hinder her return.

On arriving home I immediately consulted with my brethren about the building which the grant has provided for. It came too late to enable us to finish for occupancy this winter which makes the remodelling of another chinese house necessary. We shall do as little as is consistent with health of wife and children.

If the grant had been cabled it would have prevented my going to the Coast but would have enabled us to enter the new house this fall and thus have saved some expense. Of course this could not have been foreseen at Boston.

I would that I could express how much this grant means to us; to my family and to the station. So far as I can judge it means the saving of my wife's health and all that depends on it. It means, I believe, the unification of the station and mutual helpfulness between members in various lines of effort and all that depends on that to the work.

We greatly appreciate this grant and trust that the condition of the treasury may speedily permit further grants for other buildings that we may have that advantage to the work which is impossible now, the loss of which is so much to be deplored.

I feel that I ought to speak of our recent conference with you at Tientsin with reference to its bearing on the Mission. I fear that the discussion of our Mission problems with you by two members of the Mission was unwise.

If you could have visited the field and talked personally with each member, while I have no doubt you would have arrived at the same conclusions, much feeling and misjudging of others on the part of some members of the Mission might have been avoided. I wish to assure you, my dear Secretary, that I have perfect confidence in you and that I appreciate the difficulties of your position as I could not have done before the recent Conference.

The fact remains, I think, that a great mistake ~~mistake~~ was made in planning the deputation so that sufficient time was not allowed for the visitation of this Mission, a more serious mistake, I fear, than can be realized at the rooms.

I feel this so strongly that I have thought best to send a communication to the Pru'd Com' which I enclose unsealed.

I am sorry to have deferred writing for so many days but duties have crowded upon me since my return. I am now writing at 2 o'clock in the morning after riding 20 miles yesterday and preaching at Tun Fang, determined to send a letter by the courier who leaves at daybreak.

Trusting to hear soon of your happy

arrival
home,

I am

Faithfully Yours,

G. L. Williams.

P.S. Will you please let me know if the Board will allow us $25.— Gold for printing our Mission Annual Report and how many copies you would like at the rooms.

Tien Tsin July 1 [illegible]
Rec'd Aug. 29

Jên Tsun, July 11th 1898.

The Pru'd Com. of the Am. Board,

Dear Brethren:—

Permit me a word which I do not mean to have sound like complaint or censure.

I fear that the failure of the recent deputation to China to visit our Shansi Mission is nothing less than a calamity. Are we not a mission of our beloved Board, though a small one? That no member of your deputation should have found it possible to visit our field is a sad fact which we bitterly deplore. It is our great loss. So far as we know two members of the deputation never dreampt of coming to us. Questions difficult to settle which needed careful probing and thoughtful attention are left open or perhaps settled unwisely by Sec'y Smith in conference at Tung Chow with two members of our Mission. Sec'y Smith's minute knowledge of the field, considering the fact that he had never visited it, was remarkable, and no man could have done better than he, but the fact remains that questions come to a small mission on which there are serious and real differences of opinion, which are difficult of satisfactory settlement in that way. The position of those summoned to represent the mission in conference as well as that of the Secretary is a delicate one.

That so important a deputation should have been sent out with insufficient time allotted for the accomplishment of their work, seems a strange fact to us. But then, we forget ~~that~~ how difficult it is to understand at home that it takes eight days to travel 300 miles at the very quickest.

With an earnest prayer that the work of our beloved Board may not abate,

I am,

Sincerely your co-laborer in that work.

G. L. Williams.

Taiku Station.

[illegible] Sept 2nd [illegible]

On account of the death of [illegible] which has [illegible] the [illegible], and the [illegible] of the [illegible] meeting [illegible] the [illegible] I respectfully [illegible] for [illegible] to the M.E. [illegible] in your [illegible] than [illegible] in the field [illegible]

Respectfully E. C. Williams

[illegible]

Reg.

D. W. Clapp
C. W. P[illegible]
[illegible]
E. [illegible]
W. T. [illegible]

differences of opinion which are difficult of satisfactory settlement in that way. The position of the [illegible] [illegible] the presence in Conference as well as that of the Secretary is a delicate one.

That so important a delicate task should have been sent out with insufficient time allotted for the accomplishment of [illegible] works seems a strange fact to me. That [illegible] may see how difficult it is to understand it would take eight days to have [illegible] at the [illegible] finished.

With my very best wishes that the work of our beloved [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I am

Sincerely yours [illegible]

in that work.

[illegible]

[illegible] Station

RC

Gen Tenney July 11, 1898
Rec'd Sept. 14

Taiku, Sept 6th. 1898.

On account of the health of Mrs. Williams, which has caused anxiety now for many months, and the need of her widowed mother resulting from the death of her only other child, I respectfully ask permission for her to return to the U.S. in the spring of 1899 one year earlier than the time set for our furloughs, I meanwhile remaining on the field until 1900.

Respectfully, G. L. Williams.

Signed by Members of Mission,

Aff.	Neg.
D H Clapp	
C. W. Price	
I. J. Atwood	
E. R. Atwater	
A. L. Hall.	

Jên Tsun. Sept. 19th 1898.

Dear Secretary Smith:—

I regret exceedingly the necessity of forwarding the accompanying request to the Prudential Committee.

It most certainly is not according to my wishes or of my own ordering, but seems to be from the Lord. Therefore we try to cheerfully submit. I will add, although I trust it is not necessary to assure you of the fact, that we have no thought of giving up the work.

Obediently Yours,
G. L. Williams.

P.S. Mr. Thompson, the only member of the mission now on the field who has not signed, is away at the coast.

Tarkio, Sept. 6. 1898
Rec'd Nov. 10 —

8.C.

Táiku, Shansi, Mar. 3. 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith.

Our Mission Secretary is
ending you a Resolution begging for another
hysician to be sent to Taiku this coming fall if
ossible. Our action may at first seem hasty but
the facts and conditions, when known to you, will
xplain the seeming haste.

Dr Hall, accompanied by his family, left for
ientsin in early November. He went on the ground
having discovered symptoms of that dread
sease, "Diabetes Mellitus", with the hope of securing
dical assistance at the coast. On Jan'y 14th, he
rote to the members of Taiku station, "It has been
ided for us today, that I am not to return
Shansi. Dr. Smith (London Mission) has decided
at I cannot return with safety". The same
tter gave explicit directions for the sending

t Tientsin of his household effects.

Later letters confirm his decision and final rrangements have been made ending his life and work in this field.

What were we to do? It seemed best for us to raw up and sign a resolution and forward it ithout delay, in the hope that it would reach you arly enough to secure another physician and send im to us before another winter.

Dr. Atwood of Fen-cho-fu today passed through Taiku on his way to America for his much needed urlough. His departure leaves the whole Mission without a physician. We need medical aid as soon s you can send it. The need of Missionary amilies is urgent. We beseech you to send a man r our thirteen little children here in the heart of hina weary miles of slow travel from Medical d in other missions. May God direct you to quickly ind the right man for our dispersed medical work, the broken right arm of the Evangelistic

ork. The Chinese assistants are not capable
doing much alone. We laymen can direct them
nly imperfectly and fearfully. The responsibility
s too great.

The medical work of Taiku has been smitten
any times and often. We earnestly hope and
ay for a permanent work and worker.

Respectfully and Sincerely Yours,

G. L. Williams.

Rev. G. L. Williams

Tai-ku, Mch. 3. 1899

Recd April 24

Taiku, Apr. 29th. 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith, Sec'y,

Dear Dr. Smith:—

I am so pressed with the work of housebuilding and other duties that I have but a moment for writing.

At our recent Annual Meeting a request was made of the Prud. Com. for a grant for School buildings for Taiku. The need is truly imperative as has been represented by the Committee especially appointed to draw up an appeal.

If we can know that the money has been granted we can build this summer and be ready immediately to occupy this fall. I am so anxious to know that I wish to beg you to send me a cablegram at my expense at the earliest possible moment, if the grant is made. Will you please do so?

My own house is gradually rising and bids well to be very substantial, dry, and convenient, and not over expensive. My first order for doors and windows never reached San Francisco, this has occasioned disastrous delay.

Sincerely Yours,

G. L. Williams.

Rev. G. L. Williams

Tai-ku, April 29, 1897

Rec'd June 13

Tai'ku, July 8th 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Boston, Mass,
Dear Sec'y Smith:–

As time goes on it seems imperative that my wife and children return to the U.S. this fall. It seems necessary for her to go to care for an aging parent left alone by the death of her only other child. We have delayed going until her health seems to be giving way. As we have been out only eight years I myself am very loath to go this fall and shall not if Mrs. Williams can possibly make the journey with her three little ones without me. Unfortunately few missionaries, whom she might otherwise accompany, will be returning at that season of the year. We regret this move very much, the more especially as our new house, which was provided because of the special need of my family, will be ready for occupancy this early fall.

I should be more reconciled to going now if there were some needy work I could be doing at home for a year, some work in behalf of the Board and our beloved cause.

I am needed here in the work and a furlough is not necessary yet for healths' sake, but some one must accompany my family.

I should expect to return to the field in a years time even though my family were detained at home for a longer period.

The work here in the Taiku Station never was so promising as now. Openings are presenting themselves on every side. We desire to put nen in four new places; one prefectural chou, two district hsien ities and one large market town ranging in distance from Taiku from 25 to 80 miles, this fall and other important places are all eady. These places will form out-stations for regular visitation and preaching. The whole work in many lines of effort presents most inspiring and pleasing prospect, and now omes this call of duty in an unexpected irection. While I would not shirk duty it is blow to my cherished desire to stay upon he field for an extended period saving expenses aveling and other) to the Board, thus helping n a small measure to stop the mouths of rping critics.

You have heard of the sad affliction of he Thompsons in the loss of their younger hild. It was taken with a dysentery which

I am needed here in the work and a furlough is not necessary yet for health's sake, but some one must accompany my family.

I should expect to return to the field in a year's time even though my family were detained at home for a longer period.

The work here in the Ichou Station never was so promising as now. Openings are presenting themselves on every side. We have calls to put men in four new places; one prefectural, two district cities and one large market town ranging in distance from Ichou from 25 to 80 miles, this fall and other important places are all ready. These places will form out-stations for regular visitation and preaching.

The whole work in many lines of effort presents a most inspiring and pleasing prospect, and now comes this call of duty in an unexpected direction. While I would not shirk duty it is a blow to my cherished desire to stay upon the field for an extended period saving expense travelling and other) to the Board, thus helping in a small measure to stop the mouths of carping critics.

You have heard of the sad affliction of the Thompsons in the loss of their younger child. It was taken with a dysentery which become so serious before medical help was secured was secured from the Shou Yang Mission that death soon ensued.

Our condition here without a physician is lamentable. You who have children at home surrounded by the best of physicians can never know the anxiety and pain which overwhelm us when our beloved children are stricken with some dangerous disease.

May you be guided in finding a physician who can come to us this fall.

Oh for another Goldsbury!

Sincerely Yours.

G. L. Williams.

Rec'd Aug. 26.

Taiku, Sept. 16th, 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sec'y Smith:-

I have just written a letter to Treasurer Wiggin begging for a grant of $798.19 to cover the building of our new Compound Wall, Gate-house and Stable. This money has already been expended and I shall have to bear it myself if the Board cannot grant it.

You will remember when notification of the grant of $2800.- for my house reached us at Tientsin saying to me that the amount did not seem enough to cover wall + gatehouse and that the Prud. Com. would probably grant more for that purpose. The $2800.- is not enough for more than the house, well, servants and out-houses and you will understand (having been in China) that I could not wait for a further grant as my own house would have been of no use without the wall &c. Of the $1000.- which was granted "for the purch of premises" only $135.52 was needed for the land, the remainder $864.48 going into the $2800.- for the house according to directions. I take it that the Prud. Com. supposed the Wall + Gatehouse had already been provided for.

We are sorely in need of money. I have been almost decided to cable for several days. We owe over 1000 Taels at Tientsin besides some hundreds of Taels here and not a doll in hand.

My wife and children have planned to star for America on Oct. 2nd and there is no money The sad, sad, death of Mrs Thompson compells Mr. Thompson to go home with the little ones. Cold weather is upon us and they cannot wait. Last year in Sept. the Mission signed a request for the homegoing of my family which I forwarded to the Prud. Com. No answer ever came to us, At our annual meeting in April another request was made to the Prud. Com. and again no answer has been received.

Did these requests never reach the Rooms?

The last letter to the Mission brought good news indeed for which we are very thankful. First of all we do so need a physician and I trust one has been found.

Little Alma Thompson was taken and now Mrs. Thompson. We are so apt to think. "If a physician had only been here".

My own children have been very well and my wife gradually improving in strength all the year.

With best wishes for yourself and family,

I am

Sincerely Yours,

G. L. Williams

Taiku, Sep. 16, 1899.

Rec'd Oct. 24.

Shanghai, China.
Oct. 28th. 1899.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.,
Boston Mass.

Dear Secretary Smith:-

I am here at Shanghai awaiting the departure of my family for the U.S. on the steamer Coptic. As soon as they leave I shall return to Taiku where I hope to work on until the spring of 1901 efore going home.

I am a little in doubt as to how much traveling expense an rightly be charged to the Board. Can the expense of my coming to Shanghai and return to Taiku be charged t seemed necessary as we have three small children. I had not already had unusual heavy expenses I ould gladly pay it myself. Only last year I had to t over $200.- Tls into the purchase of a temporary residence hile waiting for the new house. Last year I also paid $158.- d toward deficiency in work. The building of the house o brought additional expense. All this I have gladly done and only mention it to make plain the reason for my desiring to charge the expense of escorting my family this far. I might also add that I am paying the difference in fare between an intermediate passage by the Northern Pacific and a first class passage by the Pacific Mail for Miss. Rigg, a China Inland Missionary, that she may accompany my wife. Otherwise I should have to go on and could not return to the work.

We have been on the field eight full years and a furlough has been granted. I am remaining for a year and a half however as my health is good.

I would be glad for a prompt reply if the charge is a legitimate one.

I am

Very Sincerely Yours,

G. L. Williams

Please direct to Tai'ku, Shansi,

Via Tientsin and Paoting-fu.

Shansi, Oct. 28, 1899.
Rec'd Nov. 21,

Mrs. Alice McWilliams
513—519

Yü Tao Ho, China
July 19, 1893

Dear Dr. Smith:-

We have now been in China nearly two years. It has given time for some of the first anticipated ideas to pass away and some of the real to take place.

During our year at the coast I became greatly interested in the woman's work. It kindled a flame of enthusiasm which has not subsided although unable to do much at present. When we arrived at Tai Ku I found no women. No one had time to attend to that branch of the work. Not because they did not feel the necessity of it but because their hands were full. The boys demanded the entire time of the two ladies at work.

This pained me not a little for I felt that the souls of the women and girls were just as precious as the men and boys.

The coming of more foreigners aroused the curiosity of a number of women and they came to see us also attended service. After their curiosity was satisfied they dropped off one by one. For the first time there were three women hired to work on the place and they were taught to read. On Sabbath Miss Bird talked to them and the scattering few who came in. We have no suitable place for women and can expect no great results until proper arrangements can be made for them. It makes me feel sad that this winter will open with the same unfavorable situation. I feel it all the more keenly because of the work seen done this summer.

In the spring I could not understand just why it was that we should have to give up our work in Taiku and come here for the summer. But since I have seen the work that Mrs. Davis is doing for the women it has given me new courage and am very glad that we came.

Her work in the dispensary with the women at Fen Chou Fu & the Sabbath work gives her but little rest. They came to this beautiful spot in the valley, eight miles from the city for rest. Her love for the work can not rest however. She has started a day school for girls in the village on the hill side opposite us. One of the christians from a village near the city moved out with his family to take charge of the school.

There are eight girls and one boy being taught. The parents are pleased to know that Mrs. Davis will open a girls school in the city this fall and they desire to send their daughters. The women here are showing a decided interest and we hope for good results.

These girls with those already promised from the city & a village near give fair prospect of a goodly number for the new girls school, in Mrs. Davis's back court in the city.

I am afraid that Mrs. Davis zeal for these souls will cause the body to bend. Her household duties, little baby boy; woman's work and boarding school are entirely too much for one person. She needs help. Is there not a young lady ready to come at once? yes two! By the time they have the language they will be needed.

If they were here this winter they could encourage her by their presence. Their home is a mile from the other compound. This fact with the care of the school will confine her entirely too close for her health. We can only hope and pray that one young lady at least can be sent at once.

We are enjoying our summer in this place very much. I only wish that we could find a spot near Tai Ku as pleasant.

Remember me to Mrs. Smith;

Sincerely yours
Alice Moon Williams

Yu Tao Sho, July 17. 1878.
Rec'd Sept. 6.

Jen Tsun Shansi
July 21, '94

Dear Dr. Smith;–

We call for help and is there no one ready to come to our relief? Are there no efficient men ready to leave for this great work, or is the way blocked because of lack of funds?

When sickness enters our homes we are help- and we cry out in anguish.

My husband has been sick for a week, the second similar attack within a month. The first time we called upon our English neighbors for help as it was impossible for Dr. Atwood to leave Fen Chow Fu at that time. This time we have sent for him but we are in the midst of the rainy season. The day our messenger was sent it began to rain and has rained every day since until today. There are a number of streams between us with no means of crossing but fording and we are afraid that it will be a number of days yet before he can get here. He is due today but the streams from the mountains have flooded some of the country. A cart with three men were caught in the torrent and the men were drowned. Thirteen children were also drowned outside of this city rather village.

The doctor from Tai Yuen fu can not come now for his wife is just recovering from scarlet fever.

We sympathize with you in your position for our trials and woes all poured into your ears. We also know that you would send us a man if you could. You have our prayers in seeking a man for us and oh how earnestly we do pray that he may come this fall.

The doctor has arrived and we are very much relieved. He is worse tonight but hope that the morning will find him better. We want him to go back with the Dr. for a health-change and rest. He has been working to hard. He is so conscientious that he does not want to slight the work in the least degree.

Very Sincerely Yours

Alice Williams

Jen Tsun July 21, '94

Filed Sept. 12.

ans? Sept. 14

Tai Ku, Shansi
Nov. 22, 1894

Rev. E. E. Strong.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Strong,

When I last wrote to you I was carrying a heavy burden but it has been lifted. My husband who was very sick at the time is very much improved in health. We went to Fen chow fu and remained there until our own doctor came to us.

We thank you for the great effort which you made on our behalf. Never were hearts more grateful to hear such welcome news. We were beset with fears that something might happen to detain Dr. Hall on the way. Our Father was good to us and he came.

We like them very much, for they are genuine people. Our fear is that we may loose him now that we have him. He has been in a few times and has seen the sanitary condition of the places.

We all for the sake of our own health and little ones, feel that we can stay here no longer, neithe can we ask them to come here and live under these conditions. Our own court is so narrow that the sun neve strikes it below our high windows in the winter. The young ladies and Mr.

Atwater's court has a little in the middle of the day.

Our children can never play in the court for health sake. When I came home the first of Sept. I found my husbands study in a frightful condition. The west wall was covered with mold and dampness.

Men were called and the walls rewhitewashed. I was called back again to my husband and when we returned in Oct. the walls were as bad as ever. There he must work and study this winter; what the outcome will be I am fearful to say.

Miss Bird has the best rooms on the compound yet she has a window which opens onto a cess pool in the street. All have been sick this fall the school boys not accepted.

We appreciate the financial distress of the Board and have not urged our request to get out of the city, hoping that the time would soon come when they could grant us the money. Now we feel that we must get out. Ten thousand dollars is a small item when compared with what it may cost if we stay here in the city much longer.

Our prayers go with this letter, hoping that the hearts of the people may be ready to respond to our great need. It is a real, actual, urgent need.

Yours most sincerely

Alice Williams.

Taiku Nov. 22 1894
Rec'd Jan. 24 1895

516

Nov 22-1894

Mrs. Davis of Jen T'Sun writes to Mr. Price under date of November 27:

"I had a pleasant visit of a week in Taiku. Poor Mrs. Williams looks so badly. I think it is simply fearful to have to live as they do in Taiku, so crowded with the natives in those narrow courts in that filthy city. Mrs. Williams has malaria all the time nearly. I do feel so sorry for her. . . . .

"Oh, I wish the friends in Taiku could move out. It is simply awful there. Human beings ought not to live as they are there housed. I never realized it as I did when I was in a week ago. Won't anyone come to the rescue and send them money? I feel worried about Mrs. Williams. She looks dreadfully. Pale as can be and so thin in the face, and full of malaria. Between you and me from an earthly standpoint it looks as if life for her is not long."

From a Mission Field in China.

The following letter from Mrs. Alice M. Williams, wife of Rev. Geo. L. Williams, '88 O. C., '91 O. T. S., has been furnished the NEWS for publication by Rev. C. W. Price. It will interest some of the friends of the missionaries located at that place and show what has to be endured by them:

LI MAN, August 21, 1896.

My Dear Friends:—"Out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh." Our crowded condition and unhealthful location in Taiku is such that we can not keep silent.

We have sent appeal after appeal to the Prudential Committee of the Board for buildings for the missionaries to be erected in a healthful locality; also for provision for the growth of the work. They sympathize with us and promise to send the money as soon as they have it to give, but their hands are tied for lack of funds.

Now it is to the churches we cry, of which you are one. Is our strong hope to be met with disappointment again this year? Are our prayers for naught? Must we go back to our crowded courts with no hope for the future? Would that I could so picture our homes and crowded condition that it would burn itself into the hearts of you who sent us here and whose servants we are, that there would be no peace of heart, no peace of mind until you come to our relief. We go back this fall into sunless courts, green with mould, small rooms and a study that in the summer heat without rain is so damp that we can scrape the whitewash off by the handfuls.

A narrow passage way connects our court with the other courts. It is through this passage way that every one passes not only into our court but into the chapel, the opium court for men, and street chapel—people tainted with disease and contagion as well as those strong in body.

Mr. and Mrs. Clapp must return to their disconnected home. Their only bed-room and sitting-room is beside the street gate where when they want to seek quiet and repose they find it almost impossible for the noise. Their kitchen and dining-room are in another court. Their store-room still further away. This division of rooms causes Mrs. Clapp to add many more steps to her work with the school boys.

Miss Bird is practically the best situated in her two rooms, yet an upstairs window opens above a cess-pool, and her room below is beside a Chinese closet. It was due to the latter that she had a severe illness two years ago.

Before the work closed for the [illegible] summer days there were [illegible] sons in our small compound [illegible] cludes school boys and opium [illegible] The compound is 123 feet wide [illegible] long, containing homes for two [illegible] lies, two young ladies, helpers [illegible] school dormitories, school-room [illegible] opium refuges, chapel, street [illegible] two stable courts, and seven [illegible] Add to this the vile streets around [illegible] Are you surprised that we cry for [illegible] under such conditions?

Another branch of our work is great[illegible] ly retarded. Our physician who has been with us only two years is separat[illegible] ed from us by a distance of eight miles because there is no place in the city. Most unsatisfactory work is done by teaching at that distance. With all these facts can you wonder at our des[illegible] pair ever waiting? Wherein have [illegible] failed to reach the hearts of the [illegible] Is the appeal for eleven thousand [illegible] lars too small to be granted? We [illegible] make it larger, for it is barely [illegible] to cover the amount to be expended [illegible] medical work, school, woman's [illegible] homes for two young ladies and [illegible] families, including the physician's [illegible] ily.

If no help comes we go back [illegible] have done in the past, trusting [illegible] to protect and help us. Our [illegible] short in all directions, work [illegible] on all sides so that we must [illegible] elbow our way in our homes [illegible] the people. If Booth-Tucker [illegible] us he would have to repudiate [illegible] ment that missionaries never [illegible] contact with the natives.

As long as the heavy debt was [illegible] upon the Board we kept hoping [illegible] hope, but now that the [illegible] and no help is coming we fear [illegible] churches do not know of our dis[illegible] Are any of you helping us? [illegible] pray for us and won't you help [illegible] terest your friends in our [illegible] you not know some person [illegible] who could come to our [illegible] ourselves, can only live where [illegible] this winter, our two little [illegible] the increase in work are [illegible] out. What shall we do [illegible] Pray, oh pray for us that we [illegible] faint by the wayside. I [illegible] like much to hear from some [illegible] to know what has been done [illegible] half.

Believe me, one of your [illegible] Christ's vineyard, and a true [illegible]

ALICE M. WILL[illegible]

EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

A. B. of C. for F. M.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

MADISON, WIS., ______ 1894.

Li Man, Aug. 21. 1896. cut
from Oberlin News of Friday
March 1897.

Rec'd March 17.

Li Man Chuang, Chin

Aug. 26, 1896

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith;

"Out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh." It is out of despair over our condition in Tai Ku that I again write to you.

Is our strong hope to be met with disappointment again this year? Are our pleadings and our prayers for naught? Mus we go back to our crowded, unsanitary courts with no hope for the future. Would that I could so picture our homes and crowded condition that it would burn itself into the hearts of our supporters, that there would be no peace of heart, no peace of mind until they came to our relief.

We go back again this fall to sunless courts green with mold. To small rooms; sitting room, bedroom, dining room, and a study where my husband does all his mental work and receiving of natives which in the heated summer without rain is so damp with moisture that we can scrape the whitewash off by the handfulls.

A narrow passage way connects our court with the othe courts. It is through this passage way that every one in the compound passes, not only to our court, but also to the chapel, street chapel, and opium court for men; people who are tainted with disease and contagion as well as those well in body. The fear of contagion is not so much for ourselves as our children. Mr. & Mrs. Clapp must return to their disconnected home, Their only bed room is beside the street gate where, when they want to seek quiet and repose, they find it almost impossible for the noise. Their kitchen and dining room are in another court. Their store room still farther away. Mrs. Clapp's time is fully taken up with school work and this division of rooms causes much useless labor.

Miss Bird is practically the best situated in her rooms as to dryness and sunlight. Yet she has a window upstairs which opens above a cess pool. Her room below is beside a chinese closet. It was due to the latter that she had a severe illness two years ago.

Before the work closed for the heated summer days, there were seventy perons on our small compound. This included only those who lived on the place, foreigners, school boys & opium patients. The compound is 123 ft. wide by 237 ft. long and contains homes for two families, two young ladies, Helper Liu, school dormintories, school room, two opium refuges, chapel, street chapel, two stable courts and seven closets. To make the situation still worse we are surrounded by the vile streets of the crowded city. Are you surprised that we keep calling and calling for help under such conditions.

Wherein have we failed to reach the hearts of the people. Is the appeal for eleven thousand dollars too small to be granted? We could make it larger for it is barely sufficient to cover the amount to be expended for medical, work, boarding school, womans work, homes for two young ladies and three families.

We can live in our own rooms this winter but no longer as our only bedroom will not be large enough. Our two little girls are growing and crowding us out. We can not utilize the only guest room on the place as it is over Miss Partridge's room. What shall we do next year? With all thes facts can you wonder at our despair over the long waiting

Our money cut short in all directions, work growing on all sides so that we must not only elbow our way in our homes but with the natives. If Booth-Tucker could see us he would have to repudiate his statement that missionaries never came in contact with the people.

As long as the debt was resting heavily upon the Boa we kept hoping against hope but now that the debt is paid and no help is coming we fear that we are not zealous enough in presenting our cause.

We hear of grants given for extension of work in other places and no encouragement that our sore need may soon be relieved. What can it mean? We are glad for them and rejoice with them in their advancement and take heart that our turn may soon come. God gran that it may speedily come.

Believe me one of your coworkers in the field.

Alice M. Williams.

Li Man, Aug. 26, 1896.

Rec'd Nov. 1.

possibly a paragraph.

Ashland Ohio
Dec. 11, 1899

Rev. Judson Smith-
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith,-

I am glad that I can write
hat I am safely at home with my
nother. The journey was a very
ard one and I was ill when we
anded. Mr. Frear meet us and
ave us most valuable assistance.
e shall forever feel grateful
him for his help.
Owing to my weak condition
had my Uncle meet me at Chi-
go and came right through
Friday night- arriving here

and Mr. Frear said he would
from San Francisco. If it is
done please let me know.

My husband has written to y
about my expenses here. If it
seems best to you I should like
in monthly enstallments. I now
await your pleasure. I find
my Mother in very poor healt
It was a grief to leave my husband ~~&~~ behind but for Mothe
sake I am glad that I am
here.

Believe most sincerely

Alice M. William

No. 7. Cottage St.
Ashland
Ohio

Saturday morning. Dec. 9 I now feel a
ittle rested but still far from
ell. The doctor in San Francisco
aid that nothing but three months
n a hospitable would help me.
However I hope that I may
e spared that.

I left Mr. Thompson with his
two little ones on Friday morning
It was very hard to see him
tart off alone with his babe.

Mr. Frear gave me money
or the journey overland and
wing to my weak condition
had to use it all and a little
more so that I have nothing
refund. Mr. Williams said
at he would report my expenses
the other end of the line.

Mrs. Alice M. Williams, S

Ashland, Dec. 11. 1899.

Rec'd Dec. 14

Mrs. Alice M. Williams

Rec'd Dec. 18-1899

No. 7. Cottage St. 519
Ashland Ohio
Dec. 15, 1899

v. Judson Smith, D.D.
No. 14, Becon St.
Congregational House
Boston, Mass.

ar Dr. Smith—

Your letter of Dec. 13th received
day. I am glad that I can say
at I am improving a little
in health. There is a specialist
n Cleveland that I hope to con-
ult next month. It is my hope
hat I may be spared hospital
reatment as my real trouble is
oor blood and that affects my
heart. If I can have that trouble
radicated by good country air

and proper diet the other will be spared.

I should like to have my allowance as soon as possible as I am now in need of it. If it can be sent on to me at once I shall be very glad as there are a number of expenses to be met with at once.

If it can be sent to me in monthly enstallments begining with Dec. 9th, It would be a great convenience. The children and their ages are as follows. Gladys Mason, 6 the 23 of Aug. this year. Rhea Eloise, 4 the 8 of Oct. and Helen Marie 2 the 18 of May

My traveling expenses are now all at hand but those incurred on the other coast. Those here I will report next week Monday and the other my husband will send to Mr. Wiggin.

I have had a short note from Mr. Thompson saying that he reached his destination Dec. 9, at 11 P.M and all were well. He bears his loss remarkably well. Mrs. Thompson was a rare woman. Her loss to our work is great indeed. We sometimes wonder why all these happen but the Father knows best.

Mr. Thompsons address is
Pepin Wisconsin.

Believe me very Sincerely
Alice M. Williams